

1900-1909

# VACAVILLE

THE PAST CENTURY

## Change only constant in Vaca Valley

By Richard Rico / Editor & Publisher

History would remember it as "the golden age."

But in pre-1900 California, gold was in the eye of the beholder. Some of the pioneers in this new land were lured by the dream of El Dorado in 1849. When their gold pans came up empty, they traded them for

plows and mined the rich soil instead. Others made the arduous east-west trip by wagon train solely because of the gold they envisioned on the fruit trees in the Vaca and Pleasants valleys. But none who stood at the threshold of

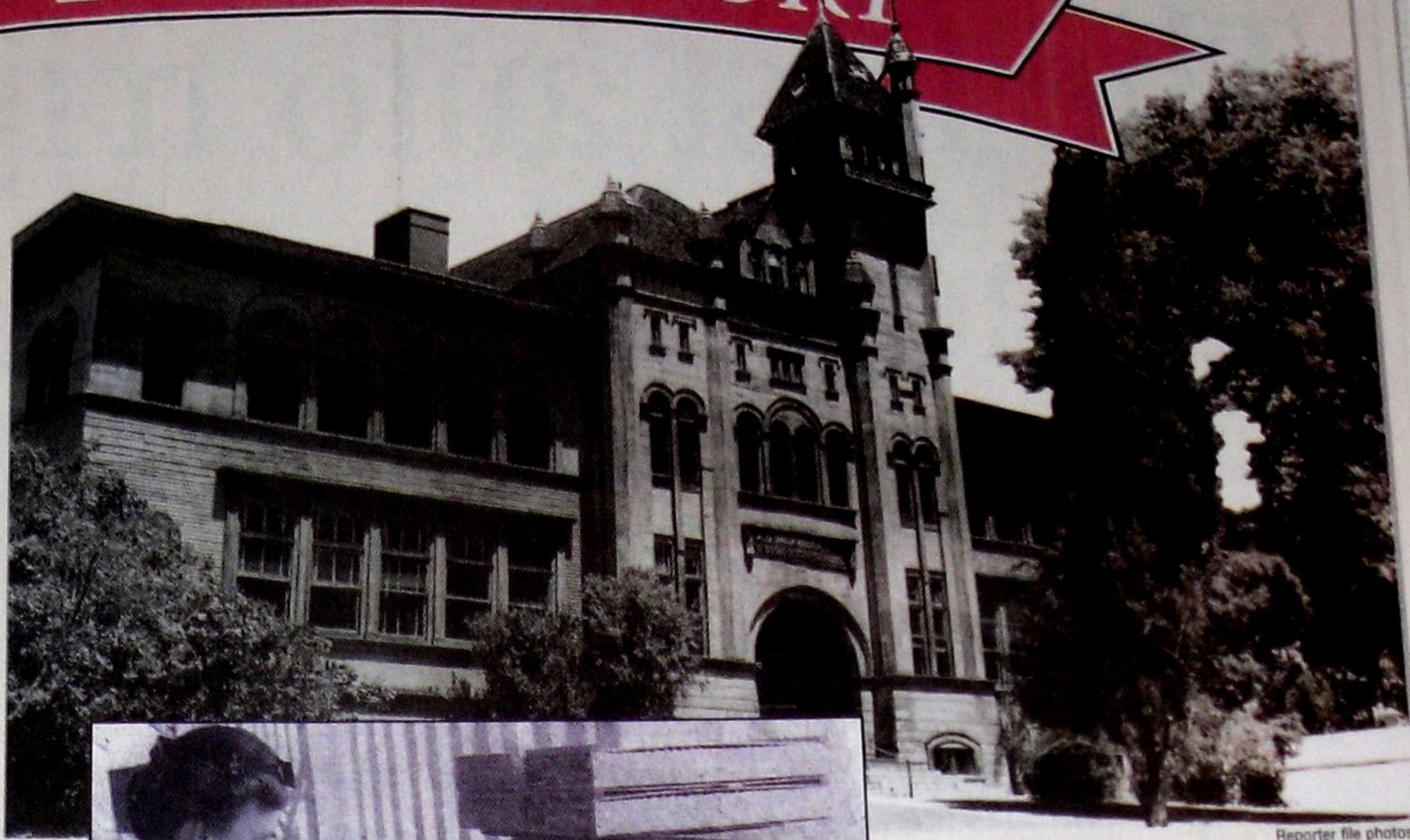


Reporter file photo  
**The Vacaville High School football team shown in 1901.**

the 20th century could have possibly imagined where fate and true grit would lead them, their descendants and their new town in the decades to come.

Vacaville arrived at 1900 with 50 years under its belt, the last eight as an incorporated city. Vast Mexican land grants had long since been carved up or sold off. The land where grizzlies roamed and elk grazed had already passed through the hands of the Southern Patwin Indians, some Spanish expedition homesteaders and Mexican settlers. Since 1850, when Manuel Vaca deeded nine square miles of his Los Putos grant to William McDaniel for \$3,000, and a promise of 1,055 lots in a new town to be called Vacaville, progress had been plodding, but steady.

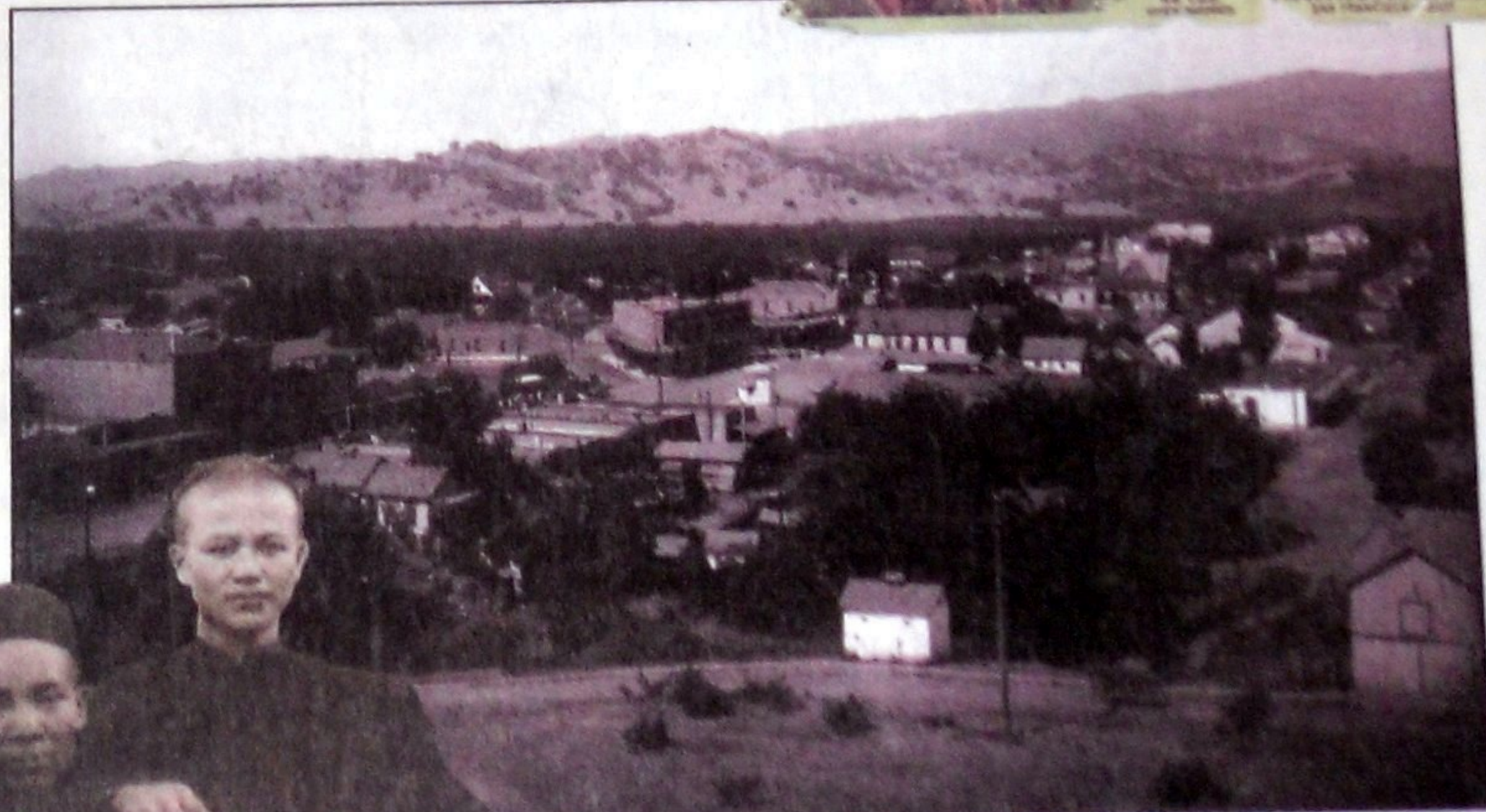
From a distance, Vacaville (See Change, Page 6)



Reporter file photos  
**The first Vacaville High School (above) was built in 1898. Education was an important aspects of Vacaville life.**



**Precise packing (above) and the colorful labels of area companies (right) were signs of a thriving fruit industry.**



**Downtown Vacaville (above) as seen from what is now Andrews Park. Immigrants, like these Chinese household servants of the L.W. Buck home, were a vital part of Vacaville's history.**



### THE JOURNEY BEGINS...

Welcome to the past 100 years. This is the first installment in our 10-part series revisiting the past century in Vacaville's history. On the last Sunday of each month between now and the end of 1999, we will present a special section highlighting a specific decade. We

begin today with 1900 to 1909 and complete the project in December with 1990 to 2000. Readers are encouraged to collect all 10 special sections for a complete historical edition. At the end of the year, a special collector's edition, bound in a Leatherette cover, will be available for purchase.

#### Optimism greets century

Vacaville, with big dreams for a small city, moves forward and grows. / Page 3

#### Trends of the times

Women were influential at the turn of the century. / Page 3

#### Fruit was king

The quality and quantity of fruit from the area was widely known. / Page 4



#### Locals play relief role

Vacaville residents offered to take in those displaced by the April 18, 1906, San Francisco earthquake. / Page 9



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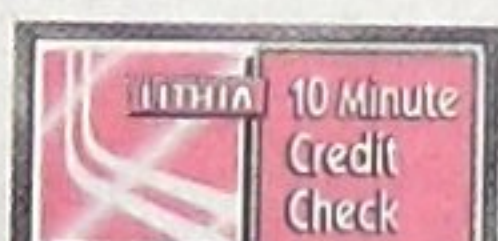
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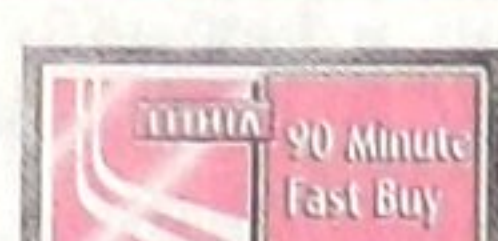
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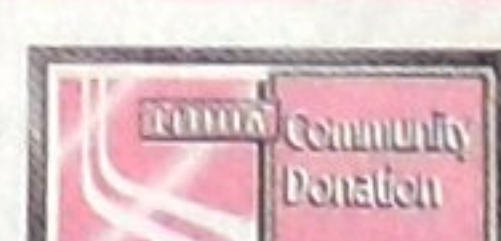
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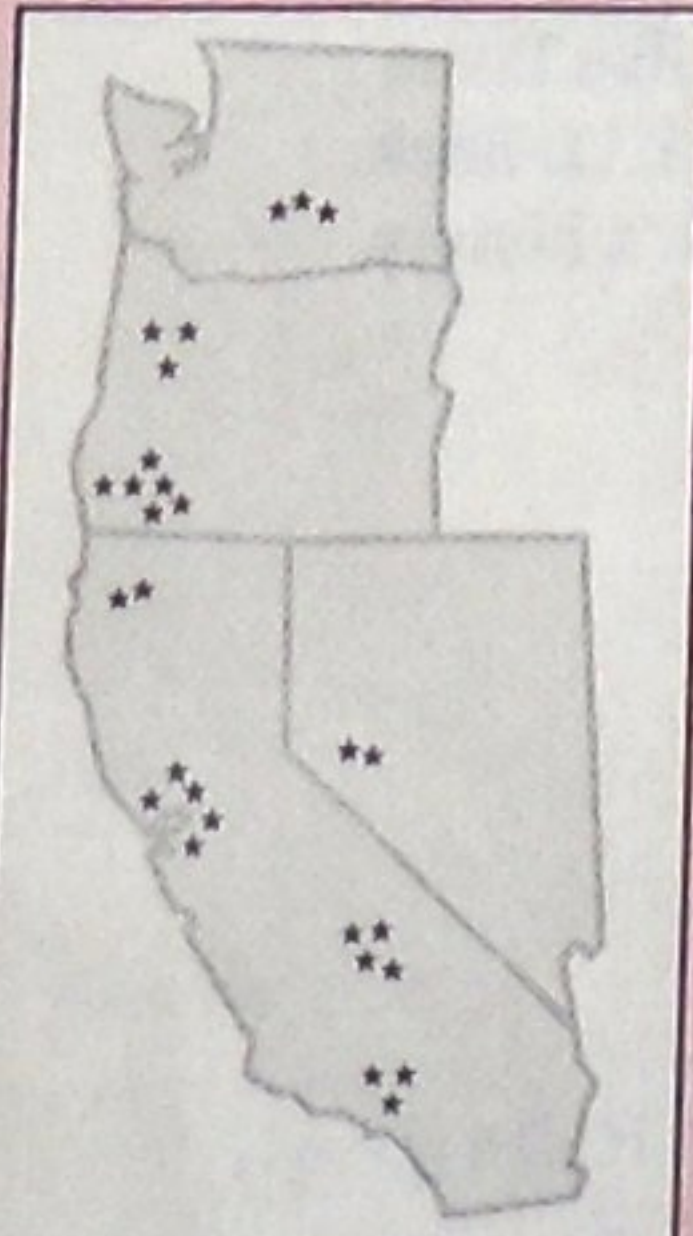
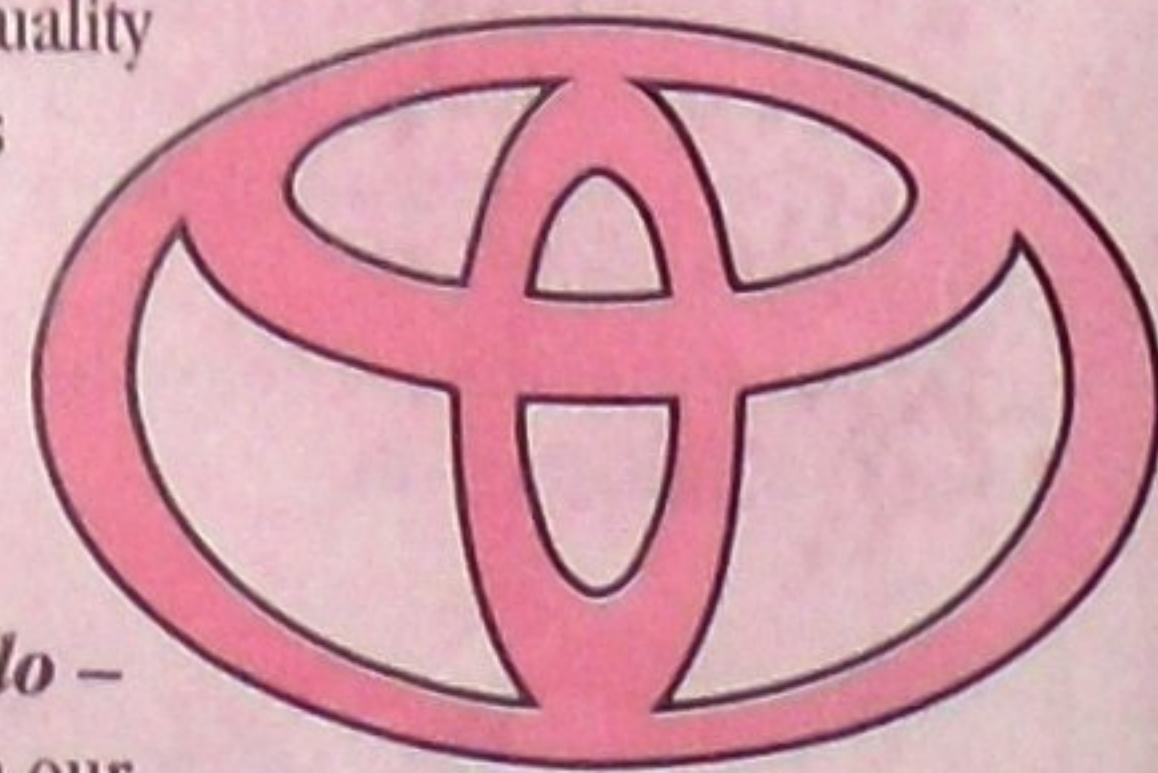
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1900-1909

THE PAST CENTURY



Reporter file photo

Vacaville's turn-of-the-century Main Street was a muddy mess in winter and dusty misery in summer. Macadam — a gravel mix — was used before Main Street was paved in 1914.

# VACAVILLE'S GROWING PAINS

## City residents greet century with optimism

By Cynthia Roberts  
Special to The Reporter

Vacaville was a little town with big dreams when a new century dawned in 1901.

Just a few years before, Vacaville had struggled with disaster. Fire had razed the wooden buildings on Main Street in 1888 and an earthquake shook building facades and tumbled chimneys in 1892.

At the turn of the century, however, owners' reconstruction efforts were buoyed by optimism in Vacaville's thriving orchards. The bounty of the town's fruit orchards connected Vacaville to the nation. An annual harvest of more than 10 million tons of fresh cherries, plums and apricots routinely was shipped East.

Main Street was the heart of the town. The network of streets — Davis, Bernard, Elizabeth, Merchant, Dobbins and Parker — structured the city's basic blueprint for more than 100 years.

Just stand on the corner of Main and Dobbins streets and look east, past the Triangle Building to the 500 block. The buildings you see on the south side have been there from the

start. Nearly all were built in 1888 after the big fire that wiped out that side of the street. When they rebuilt, merchants chose brick and mortar instead of wood as the best defense against fire.

Their walls and some of their facades have not changed, despite the passage of more than a century.

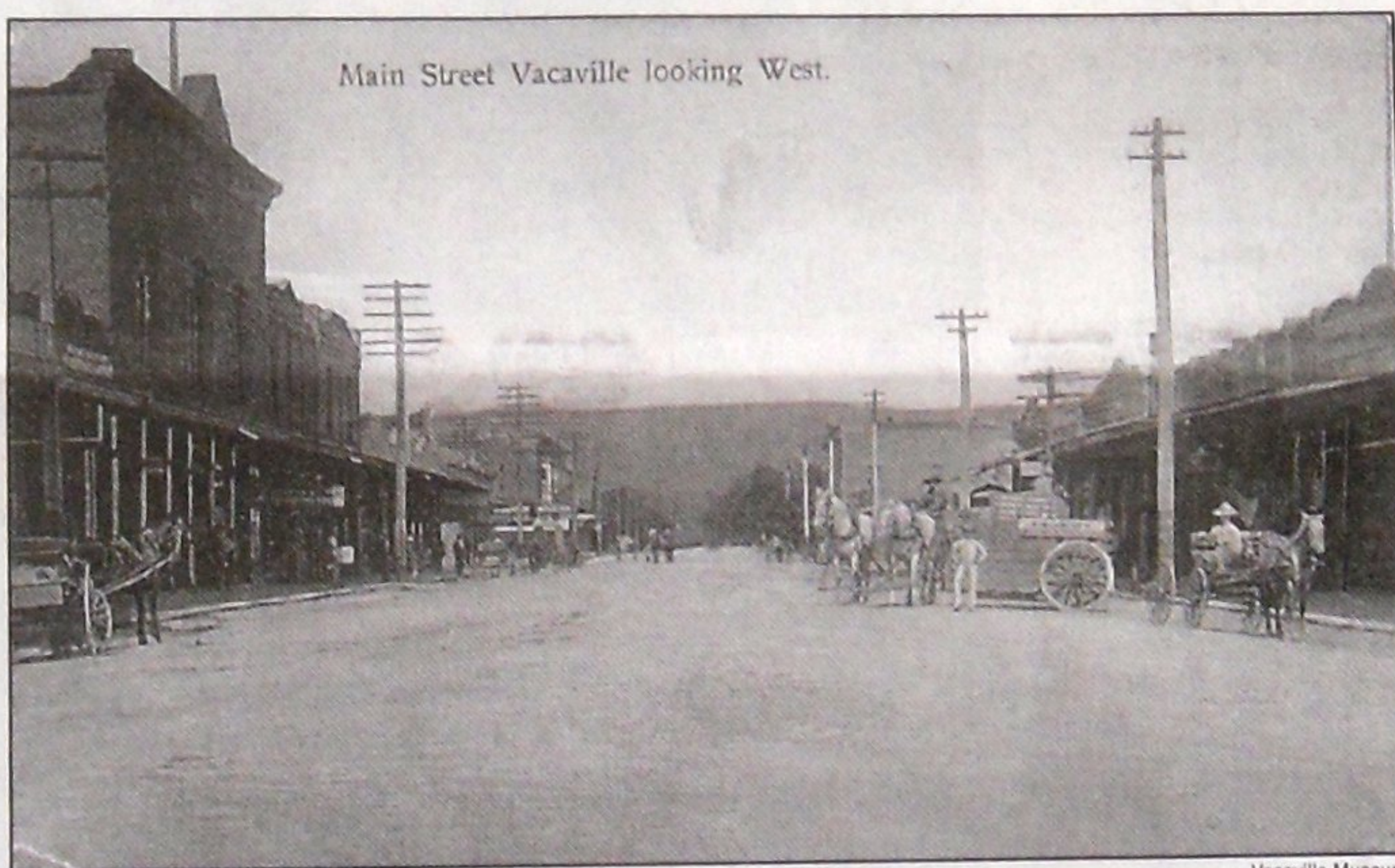
While on the southwest corner of Main and Dobbins, take a look behind at the city's oldest brick structure, the Crystal Building, finished in 1883.

Amphlett's Interiors occupies the corner section of the building. The remodeled exterior, carried out in 1902, still graces the part of the building now occupied by Main Street Salon and Tux 'n' Tailor formal wear.

The town trustees in 1901 were assessing how to convince the electorate to pay for a complete sewer system.

Imagine an election for a sewer bond measure in which 190 votes were cast, but three-fourths failed to support it.

After the defeat, The Reporter encouraged supporters not to be discouraged, noting that it took two elections in 1884 to win approval for a badly needed grammar school and



Vacaville Museum

Main Street Vacaville looks considerably different today than it did at about 1900 (above).

three elections between 1889 and 1892 for incorporation of the township of Vacaville.

Damage caused by the 1892 earthquake to the city's year-old water system was a prime motivator for incorporation, which had been blocked by the town's leading landowners, including W.J. Dobbins, Senator Parker and William Hill.

A completely connected, underground sewer system was still five years away from public approval. Until then, Ulatis Creek would continue to period-

ically reek as it collected the city's sewage.

The two necessities, water and electricity, were initially managed in the 1890s by the Vacaville Water and Light Co. But by 1900, demand was high, as was the cost of service. Creation of an electrical network came in 1901, stringing together Yuba, Sutter, Yolo, Solano, Contra Costa, Napa and Alameda counties with power from Yuba River turbines.

Bay Counties Power Co. and Yuba Electric Power Co., prede-

cessors of Pacific Gas & Electric, brought Vacaville much improved service and an overnight drop in rates.

The city's small reservoir and main water line would feel the strain of growth in 1903. The town suffered until PG&E bought out the water company and drilled new wells, some of which are still a source of water for today's residents.

Turn-of-the-century Main Street was also a muddy mess in winter and dusty misery in the (See Optimism, Page 12)

## Community rooted in ranch land

By Cynthia Roberts  
Special to The Reporter

By the start of the new century, prosperity had pushed clapboard houses off Main Street and new homes were built for both working people and the wealthy in Vacaville's first neighborhoods.

Many of those new homes, from cottages to grand Queen Anne Victorians, still stand today on streets named for the people who owned the nearby ranches and developed the lots.

Vacaville's most fashionable turn-of-the-century neighborhood blossomed out of the former ranch belonging to Mason and Luzena Wilson. The area, located west of Parker Street, was developed by successful fruit grower Frank H. Buck and his father, Leonard, who bought the property in 1887.

In 1883, fruit rancher Merideth Rains Miller decided to retire in town. He purchased a block of newly formed lots in the northern section of the William Boyd Parker ranch. Miller built several houses on (See Ranch land, Page 12)

# AMID PROSPERITY CAME CHANGE

## Women at center of movement

By Julie Davidow  
Staff Writer

Vacaville's small-town atmosphere flourished amid the prosperity of fruit's "golden age."

From 1900 to 1909, leaders of the prosperous community turned their attention to curbing alcohol consumption, and cultivating citizens' cultural literacy with book clubs and musical programs and improving education.

After nearly four decades of wrangling over the evils of drinking, Vacaville's town council passed an ordinance in 1909 closing the town's saloons and prohibiting alcohol consumption and sales.

Prohibition's momentum was slowed throughout the era by businessmen concerned that a "dry" town would parch their profits.

In 1905, a letter to the Reporter's editor suggested that business license fees would be raised

to compensate for shortfalls in the city's coffers if alcohol sales were outlawed.

"Where will the deficiency come from?" queried a Reporter subscriber.

"It must come from some source or else the town would be bankrupt."

Raising the specter of liquor's corrupting influence, another reader responded, "We will spend our money some other way, other kinds of business will boom and the merchants. But our families will be the chief gainers. As it is now we have to spend a lot of money in the saloons."

In March 1909, three months after prohibition went into effect, a petition was circulated through town to restore liquor sales.

Petitioners claimed business was being driven away by the lack of drinking holes and advocated establishing two new saloons.

"We would suggest that the saloons be required to pay a license of not less than \$100 a month. It's better to have two saloons paying \$200 a month into the town treasury and run under (See Social change, Page 6)

**Trends**  
of time  
**Times**



Vacaville Museum

Even without a vote, turn-of-the-century women, shown wading in Putah Creek, were influential.



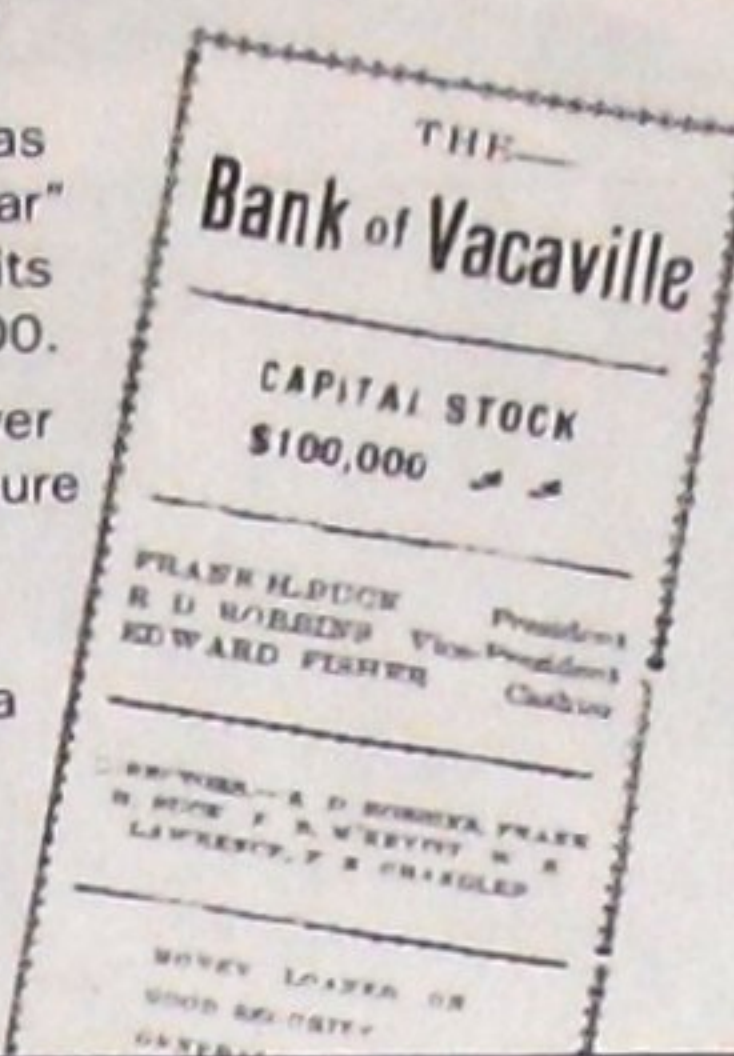
## Vacaville: A Glance BACK

### 1900

- Fire alarm system installed in Vacaville.
- Fire in Vacaville's Chinatown.
- Jeff Dobbins, son of prominent Vacaville citizen Dr. W.J. Dobbins, shoots and kills Eldridge Boyd Ball during drunken card game. The event fuels anti-gambling and temperance movements.
- Vacaville Oil Company is organized.
- Ulatis Book Club, the precursor to the public library, is founded.

### 1901

- Bank of Vacaville has "banner year" with deposits of \$125,000.
- First sewer bond measure fails to pass.
- California Fruit Exchange is organized.



### 1902

- Feeder line for electricity connects Vacaville to Bay Counties Power Company at Elmira. The service improves and rates drop dramatically.

### 1903

- Vacaville fruit shipped to London markets for the first time.

### 1904

- First of anti-gambling ordinances passed, banning nickel slots.

■ William Boyd Parker, a prominent orchardist, businessman and state senator, dies.

■ Sewer bond measure fails again. Vacaville Reporter frequently calls for the need for sewers to reduce incidence of diseases such as typhoid.

■ National Guard unit established.

■ Col. J.W. Hartzell awarded local electric rail franchise. Actual service, under another franchise, delayed until 1913.

## Locals claim victory vs. Sacramento rivals

Hurrah for Vacaville!

Eight hundred lusty lungs at Baseball Park last Sunday made the welkin ring with the acclaim. The echo still lingers with us. The initial game of the Central California Baseball League has been played and Vacaville, loveliest village of the Sacramento plain, proud and haughty in its possession of international fame, has achieved added glory.



The Vacaville High School baseball team pose in 1907.

The baseball stars of the Capital City Wheelmen of Sacramento, one of the strongest social organizations in Northern California, accompanied by a

retinue of bandmen, bicyclists, bonnie maids and stately matrons, arrived in this city at 9:30 a.m. on a special train and 250 strong cheerily waved defiance to the baseball defenders on the banks of the Ulatis. But the national gamesters of the fruit belt met them in the arena with the "Big Mitt" and the "walloping willow," and when the sun was bidding adieu to that lovely spring day the laurel was affixed on the brow of the home guard. It was a grand contest and the visiting throng were amply repaid for the distance they journeyed to see it.

The opening of the Central California Baseball season in this city was a success and the large gathering present was a credit to Vacaville and its citizens and businessmen who have aided materially the cause of good honest sport. Manager Bennett has performed his task faithfully and with ability in the organization of a team of which the city has reason to be proud.

Taking into consideration the character of the weather during the past month, which has precluded the possibility of practice, the play of the locals was good and fast. Captain McGuire's work at first base and at the bat was highly satisfactory. The battery work of Ward and Leiva was superb. They can be relied on to achieve future glory. Reeder's play stamps him as a king-pin of second basemen. Watts, the pet of the fans, played third. The four errors scored against him were on very difficult chances. "Eddie" finds consolation in the fact that on the same day at the same station prominent leaguers made two and three errors. His batting and base running was of a high order.

Vacaville Reporter  
April 16, 1904

## Petty thieves abuse farmers' good will

There is a complaint on the part of orchardists that fruit orchards, particularly orange orchards, are being overrun by boys who not only take all of the fruit, but injure the trees.

Vacaville people have been very liberal in the past in reference to growing fruit and everyone has practically been at liberty to help himself. Good nature is being abused and when men are not permitted to gather one of their growing oranges, because of the depredations of the small boy, some of the neighboring fruit growers think it is time to call a halt and hale the boys who disregard the rights of the owners of trees before the justice's court on a charge of petty larceny.

Of course everyone knows that to take fruit from an orchard without permission is a violation of statute. There has never been a prosecution in this section on that ground and we hope there will never be, but the boys will have to be made to respect fruit growing on trees, particularly the oranges, which seems to be coveted in particular by the youngsters.

Vacaville Reporter  
Nov. 9, 1901

## Vacaville gains bragging rights with each harvest

By Julie Davidow  
Staff Writer

Vacaville residents measured their lives in carloads of cherries and boxes of peaches during the first decade of the century.

Fruit defined the rhythms of life and contours of society, including which citizens dominated the town council and the autumn day when children could return to school from the fields.

News of the fruit industry's progress always made The Reporter's front page.

From the season's first carload of cherries shipped back East to periodic updates on crop volume and sale prices, The Reporter documented every twist and turn of the valley's harvest of peaches, pears, grapes, plums and cherries.

In September 1908, the headline "Can't Touch Us" boasted the season's impressive cherry profits of more than \$500 per acre.



Cordelia Adams (above) packs area-grown cherries for the Earl Fruit Company. Prosperity came with a healthy fruit industry.

# When fruit was king



Two farmers are shown in an area orchard ready for harvest.

"Last week The Reporter printed an item saying that Fred A. Chadbourne, who owns a ranch in the Suisun Valley, had cleared \$6,300 this year from 20 acres of cherries, being a profit of \$315 per acre. This is a good showing, but Vacaville can beat the showing by \$260 per acre."

A regular feature in the paper called "Practical Hints to Orchardists" dispensed advice on fruit production, including the optimum time of year to prune fruit trees and tips on controlling pear blight.

While enjoying the height of fruit's "golden age" in the Vacaville Valley, ranchers vigilantly guard-

fruit growers eager to protect their valuable crops.

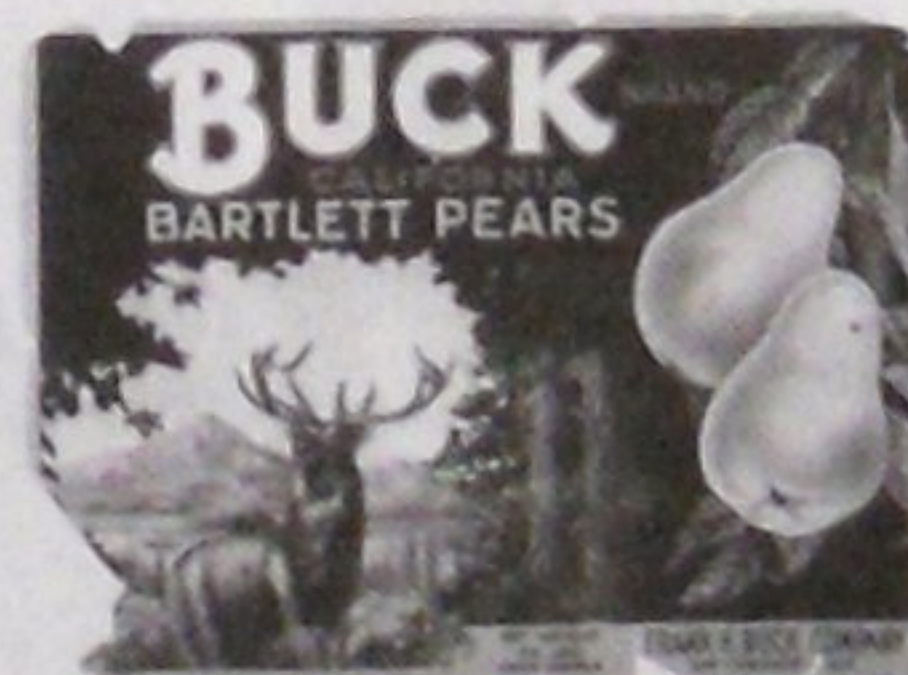
"A gopher will destroy a fruit tree that is almost priceless," explained The Reporter in 1905. "Since the repeal of the county bounty, some orchardists have followed the practice. This has been done on the Alamo Ranch by W.S. Killingsworth and is found to be profitable."

In 1902, The Reporter identified an above-ground menace to the fruit economy whom they labeled the town "knocker" for his propensity to publicly disparage the industry.

The knocker was observed at a downtown business, according to a front-page item in The Reporter, warning a prospective land buyer that the fruit industry in Vacaville was on its last legs.

"Any man of intelligence knows that fruit growing, year in and year out, is carried out under more favorable conditions in Vacaville than anywhere else in California," countered a Reporter article. "Why depreciate that in which we all have a common interest? Why run down your own property interest?"

No issue, however, plagued growers more than the railroads — the link that propelled Vacaville (See Fruit, Page 5)



Elaborate fruit company labels were common into the 1900s.

ed the boundaries of their profit margins by addressing every possible threat to continued prosperity.

Gopher scalps, for example, were worth 10 cents a head to

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218 Main Street  
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## The Beauty Parlor — 1900



Curly hair is in, so don't get a permanent. The monstrous permanent wave machine dangling from the ceiling emits the strong smell that hits you when you enter the beauty parlor. The beauty parlor operator rolls sections of hair onto rollers, using a stinky curling solution. She then attaches one of the tubes to each roller. Steam shoots down the tubes when the electricity is turned on. The smell is terrible, and the steam often burns your scalp!

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## 1905

Saloon owners voluntarily close their doors at 6 p.m. every Sunday and remained closed until Monday morning.

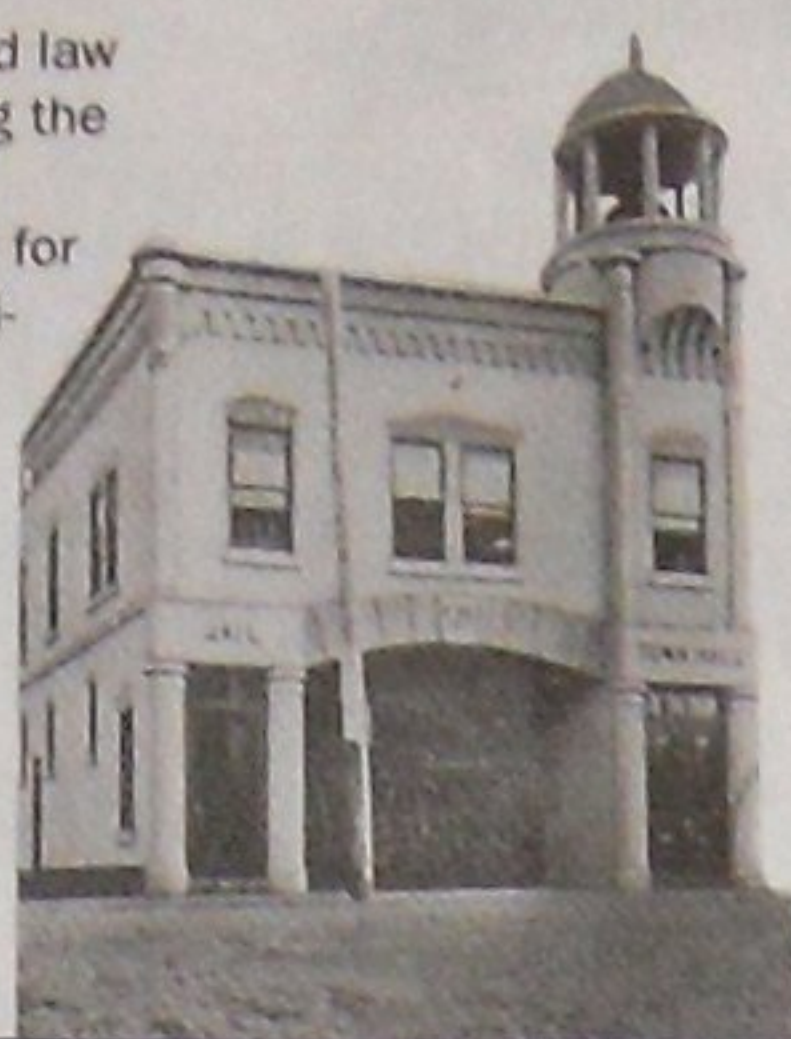
## 1906

The Harbison House at what would become Nut Tree is built. Passage of the sewer bonds.  
Earthquake that devastates San Francisco is felt here. Vacaville residents offer to house displaced survivors and money is raised for relief.

## 1907

State alien land law passed, reflecting the sentiment many white settlers had for more recent immigrants.

The town hall and jail, which still stands on Main Street, is completed.



## 1908

Raleigh Barcar, second owner of The Reporter and owner of the Hotel Raleigh, dies.

Sidney Clay Walker, builder and owner of Walker Opera House and one of the organizers of the Vacaville Water & Light Company, dies.



## 1909

Vacaville goes dry with anti-liquor law.  
Saturday Club, first women's club in Solano County, is organized.  
Vacaville Fruit Growers Association is organized.  
Raleigh Hotel burns, leaving Vacaville without a hotel for several years.  
New grammar school, Ulatis School, is completed.  
Willis Jepson's book "The Trees of California" is published.  
W.S. Godfrey opens The Grand, Vacaville's first real movie theater.

# The Japanese influence

## Immigrants leave mark on Vacaville business and community

By Julie Davidow  
Staff Writer

White ranchers, businessmen and town leaders greeted Vacaville's prosperous Japanese immigrant community with suspicion and contempt during the fruit industry's booming first decade of the 20th century.

In 1900, the Asian residents of Vacaville township numbered 1,500 out of a total population of 4,160.

The federal Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 dramatically reduced the area's Chinese population, making the Japanese the dominant immigrant group in both size and influence.

Japanese farmers owned nearly 350 acres in Vaca Valley and leased another 6,300 acres, a third of the total orchard land in the valley in 1902. On top of supplying the majority of orchard labor by 1905, Japanese businesses thrived in downtown Vacaville.

On a November evening in 1909, leading fruit growers from Solano and Yolo counties gathered in Vacaville to discuss the dangers of allowing Japanese immigrants to continue leasing and independently farming Vaca Valley's fruit orchards.

F.B. McKeivitt, co-founder and area manager of the Pinkham and McKeivitt Fruit Co. of Vacaville, called for more aggressive attempts to recruit white labor, thereby reducing the need to rent land to ambitious Japanese immigrants.

"The Japanese is of an enterprising nature and wants to better his condition," said Mc-

P. O. Box 221. Phone Main 101

**T. SHIRAI**

Dealer in

**Japanese Groceries**

**Employment Agency**

Vacaville California

An ad for a Japanese grocery and jobs agency appeared in The Reporter in 1909.

evitt. "He is the Yankee of the Orient. As labor becomes scarcer, he will lease an increasing number of ranches."

Vacaville's growers claimed Japanese lessees carelessly under-pruned fruit trees, compromising future harvests.

But underlying the statements of all opposed to Japanese labor was a pronounced aversion to "aliens" competing for the riches of the region's celebrated fruit crops.

"The Japanese in America do not become citizens of the United States," editorialized a writer for The Reporter in 1909. "They come here to earn money and having earned it, they send it back to Japan for investment there."

White Vacaville residents' anxiety over the Japanese presence had been mounting since 1888, when the first Japanese immigrants arrived in town.

Six stores located in the two-block Japanese business district along Kendal and Dob-

bins streets controlled more than half the town's general trade and 90 percent of the farm supply business, according to a 1906 report issued by the California Bureau of Labor Statistics.

When the Fresno Tribune labeled Vacaville a "suburb of Tokio," in 1907, The Reporter denied this characterization and reprinted portions of the article "as an example of supreme mendacity."

Protests aside, members of the white community feared the encroachment on their pocketbooks of successful Japanese merchants.

"We have a nice little town here which could not be excelled by any in the state if it was supported entirely by Christianized labor," suggested the author of a 1905 letter to The Reporter. "As it is, the bulk of the money is paid out to an unchristianized class of people; they are building up a business here which promises to outstrip our own merchants."

Although an agreement between the U.S. and Japanese governments in 1907 curtailed the growth of Vacaville's Japanese population, the continued threat of economic competition spurred calls to halt immigration from Japan altogether.

"Immigration from Asiatic countries should be prohibited," urged The Reporter in October 1908. "The class of people we get from most of the European countries will in a generation or two become American in tongue and sentiment, keep their money here and aid in the development of the country."



Before fruit companies built loading docks, farmers drove wagons to railcars along Depot Street.

in Vacaville waiting for transport to the East.

"The orchardists have been keeping their fruit on the trees as long as possible, but further delay is impossible and if cars are not forthcoming many peach-

es will have to be dried and disposed of in local markets," proclaimed a Reporter article. "This is all the more aggravating when there is a strong eastern market and good prices prevail."

With the departure of the last

carload of fruit on Nov. 19, the season came to a close and dire predictions were not borne out.

In fact, the total number of carloads shipped reached 1,011 — a figure exceeded only once in Vacaville's history in 1903.

## Number of phones shows city's vitality

The growing importance of Vacaville is testified by the number of telephones used in town. It beats any of the towns of Solano County in the use of the telephone.

Vallejo has 8,000 population, but the number of telephones does not compare with Vacaville.

On the new card schedule issued by the Sunset Telephone Company the space devoted to Vacaville occupies ten inches, while Vallejo's list of names only occupies five inches, and the next biggest town, Benicia, lists its telephone users in six inches of space. The number of telephones in Vacaville is 110 and this list is being increased from time to time.

The amount of the receipts at the Vacaville office has always exceeded those of any other station in Solano County.

The system here is an all night service and the ready call bell will put one in communication with the town, or any portion of the township, from Lagoon Valley following the main lines of travel up Putah Creek.

This is an advantage appreciated by every resident of the county, who far from being isolated, from his residence can communicate with his neighbors, any business place in town, call a physician or say good night to a friend in Seattle or San Diego.

Vacaville Reporter  
March 9, 1901

## All-night service gives city charge

The Vacaville Water and Light Company will begin an all-night service in a day or two.

It was expected to give the service beginning Thursday night, but it was thought advisable to wait a few days until a larger oil supply might be secured.

The matter of shipping oil is not as accurate as it might be, and since there might be delay, the all-night service will be postponed a day or two, until a generous supply is on hand.

It will probably be inaugurated Saturday night, or Sunday at the latest. It is a progressive move and will be appreciated by the people of Vacaville.

Vacaville Reporter  
June 21, 1902

## Dixon pastor gives 'Ben-Hur' lecture

On next Tuesday evening, Rev. Francis Hope of Dixon will give his popular lecture and impersonification of the scenes and characters of "Ben Hur," in Odd Fellows Hall, Vacaville.

More than one hundred magnificent colored views of this celebrated play, as it was recently given in New York and San Francisco, will be shown, and Mr. Hope will give graphic descriptions of these scenes and impersonations of the characters of the story.

It will certainly be a treat to those who were unable to witness the play in the city last fall, to see and hear this lecture. It was well received at other places in this part of the state and undoubtedly will be here. Admission only twenty-five cents.

Vacaville Reporter  
April 23, 1904

## Fruit ...

(Continued from Page 4)

ville's fruit to national attention and secured an eastern market for each year's harvest.

The cautiously optimistic tone of a Reporter editorial in 1901 suggested that the consolidation of the Southern Pacific and Union Pacific railroads "magnifies the influence of the railroad already strong enough. Yet it must be admitted that it carries a power for good, equally with a power for evil."

Optimism, however, frequently gave way to derision as fruit ranchers decried shipping rate increases and car shortages.

Growers from throughout the state assembled in Vacaville in 1909 to protest an "arbitrary" increase in freight rates by the Trans-Continental Freight Bureau.

"The mass meeting held in Vacaville on rate day brought out a large attendance and the Ulatis Club rooms were filled," reported a news article.

Attendees adopted a resolution claiming the railroad "announced an increase in rates without giving adequate hearing or consideration to the producers, merchants, shippers and consumers of California."

In July 1909, a rail car short- age left fruit stranded at depots

## Food facts from the 1900's

Quaker oatmeal, Kellogg's corn flakes, and All-Bran are available throughout the twenties, but you can't get Wheaties until 1924 or Rice Krispies or shredded wheat until 1928. Sugar-coated cereals? Not a chance!



Milk is not homogenized — you can actually see the cream that rises to the top quarter of the glass bottle. Keep one hand over the top before you shake it, or the paper cap might fly off — and a mighty spray of milk with it.



Keep a sharp eye on the toaster. To make toast, slice two pieces of homemade bread. Lean them, tent-like, on the toaster. When the first side is done, turn the toast, watch it, and then take it out before it burns. Spread on real butter — no margarine here — and homemade jam.

MERCHANT & MAIN  
349 Merchant St. • Downtown Vacaville  
446-0368

## Travelling back through time: 1900-1909



Let me introduce myself, I'm Joe Jr. from Barber Joe's on Main Street in Vacaville. I am the third generation owner of this shop. For the next ten months I'd like you to follow me back through time to the years when my grandfather, Jose Lopez, started the Barber Joe business. My grandfather was born in 1903. At the age of 14 he started cutting hair in numerous barbershops in Spain, all the time wanting to go to America (to be continued)

**Barber Joe's**

Vacaville's Oldest Family Hair Salon  
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## Change only constant...

(Continued from Cover)

weathered the tragic storm of the Civil War; the town was less than two decades old when President Lincoln was assassinated. Although few locals felt the North-South division as up close and personal as the states drawing bloody lines between the Union and the Confederacy, valley land still trembled with the temblors of unrest. When it was over, the sowing of seeds and planting of trees in Vaca Valley symbolized the healing that began in the rest of the nation.

Vacaville was on its way to becoming the fruit-producing garden spot of America. In 1895 it produced over 25 percent of the fresh deciduous fruit marketed in the state. With more than 15,000 acres planted to orchards prior to 1900, an average of 900 rail carloads of fruit were shipped from the region each season. That would peak to more than 1,300 10 years later.

By 1900 the population in the town of Vacaville was 1,220, an increase of 495 in the past 10 years. In the broader Vacaville Township, the headcount was 4,160, compared to 2,712 in 1890. With an average increase of 50 new residents per year, Vacaville was on the move.

Then as now, growth didn't come easily. There were social problems, labor issues and age-old racial antagonisms. During the peak of the fruit harvests, migrant workers would double the local population. The largest ethnic groups were Chinese first, then Japanese. By 1900 their numbers were estimated at 1,500. They built a business district along several blocks of Kendal and Dobbins streets. The Chinese district was eventually absorbed by the Japanese and came to be known as Japantown. Its culture was centered by an ornate Buddhist Temple, and simpler Joss House. As the fruit industry later waned, so did the Asian families, and their cultures.

In the first decade of the century, industrial revolution and technology seemed to arrive hand in hand, and Vacaville was hungry for it all. The Vaca Valley and Clear Lake Railroad already linked Vacaville to the main Southern Pacific line and connected to the little towns to the north. Vacaville ranchers relied upon rail to deliver their produce to eastern markets, although they were never satisfied with S.P.'s "monopoly" rates. In the late 1800s, the freight rate from Vacaville to Chicago was \$800 for one railcar.

In May 1900, electric power was first considered for Vacaville. A Vacaville Reporter editorial of the day said, "No town has a brighter future than Vacaville and we feel assured that the (Bay Counties Power) company will build its power lines to accommodate the local demand." The Reporter of the 1900s constantly implored local governments to improve dirt streets and

roads by "macadamizing" their surfaces. There was much opposition, primarily due to cost. But also as an expense and grief to ranchers, who would then have to shoe their horses more often.

In 1901, Vacaville boasted a total of 110 telephones, and special note was made of the fact the town's printed listings were 10 inches in length, compared to Vallejo's, which was only five. Intercity competition thrived at an early age.

After President William McKinley's assassination in 1901, Theodore Roosevelt won by 64 votes in Vacaville in the election of 1904. The Republican landslide that swept William Howard Taft into office in 1908 did not represent Vacaville. The mostly democratic town gave Taft and William Jennings Bryan 236 votes apiece.

Vacaville's earth trembled, but escaped the devastation that virtually leveled San Francisco in 1906. Chimneys toppled here and walls caved in, but locals still sent out the word that they would take S.F. refugees into their homes. Cherry Glen Rancher J.M. Bassford donated a box of cherries to be auctioned off in the East for the earthquake relief fund. The box raised \$2,452.

Vacaville's commercial core grew with stores, schools and churches. By the late 1900s, rural residents started leaving their ranches for homes in town. At first alarmed by the rural exodus, Reporter editors later called for subdivisions to supply the growing need for homes. "There is money to be made in the erection of cottages to be rented," they wrote. "If local capitalists do not take advantage of the opportunity, outsiders will."

People came, and demands for public facilities grew. In 1906, at a staggering cost of \$5,000, Vacaville dedicated its new town hall and jail, still standing on East Main Street. It was built out of necessity: The old town jail on College Street, next to Ulatis Creek, was either "blown into the creek by a high east wind, or pushed over by parties whose names are not known to the authorities." There is no record that they ever found out.

Growth already started to push public safety services to their limits. The raging fire that leveled Hotel Raleigh and burned the spire of the Presbyterian Church on Main Street in 1909 could have done more damage were it not for volunteer firefighters who worked valiantly on their single hand cart. The need for modernization was at hand. But it wouldn't come until the next decade. In 1916 the citizens of Vacaville bought the town's first self-propelled fire truck.

It was one of many challenges the emerging city would face in the coming decades, and especially between 1910 and 1919. But no one expected that one of them would be a world war.

**"In the first decade of the century, industrial revolution and technology seemed to arrive hand in hand, and Vacaville was hungry for it all."**

## Social change...

(Continued from Page 3)

strict regulation than to get no revenue and have liquor brought in promiscuously."

By 1910, some estimates calculate 95 percent of the county was dry.

\*\*\*

The inability to mark a ballot didn't prevent the women of Vacaville from influencing town policy and development.

Prominent women's organizations worked on a variety of projects to improve their community, including bringing a public library to Vacaville.

Hoping to build on the success of the Ulatis Book Club, established in 1900, the Women's Improvement Club sought Carnegie Library Foundation funding in 1905 for the erection of a permanent free public library.

In 1909, the Vacaville Library Association was formed under the direction of Miss Muasette R. Morris. The association borrowed books from the state library and lent them out from the grammar school.

The first batch of 50 books arrived on Nov. 19.

"The traveling library has been very popular and all of ten of the books are in circulation," said a December news article in the Reporter. "The most popular work seems to be Roosevelt's 'Rough Riders.'"

Organized in 1909 "to encourage and promote the study of musical art" the Saturday Club of Vacaville wel-

comed only women as active members.

For their first concert, the club sponsored a program by William Edwin Chamberlain, a "singer of national reputation."

\*\*\*

The Reporter closely tracked school business, keeping readers informed of their children's progress in the new century.

A new seven-classroom grammar school was inaugurated with the first day of classes in 1909.

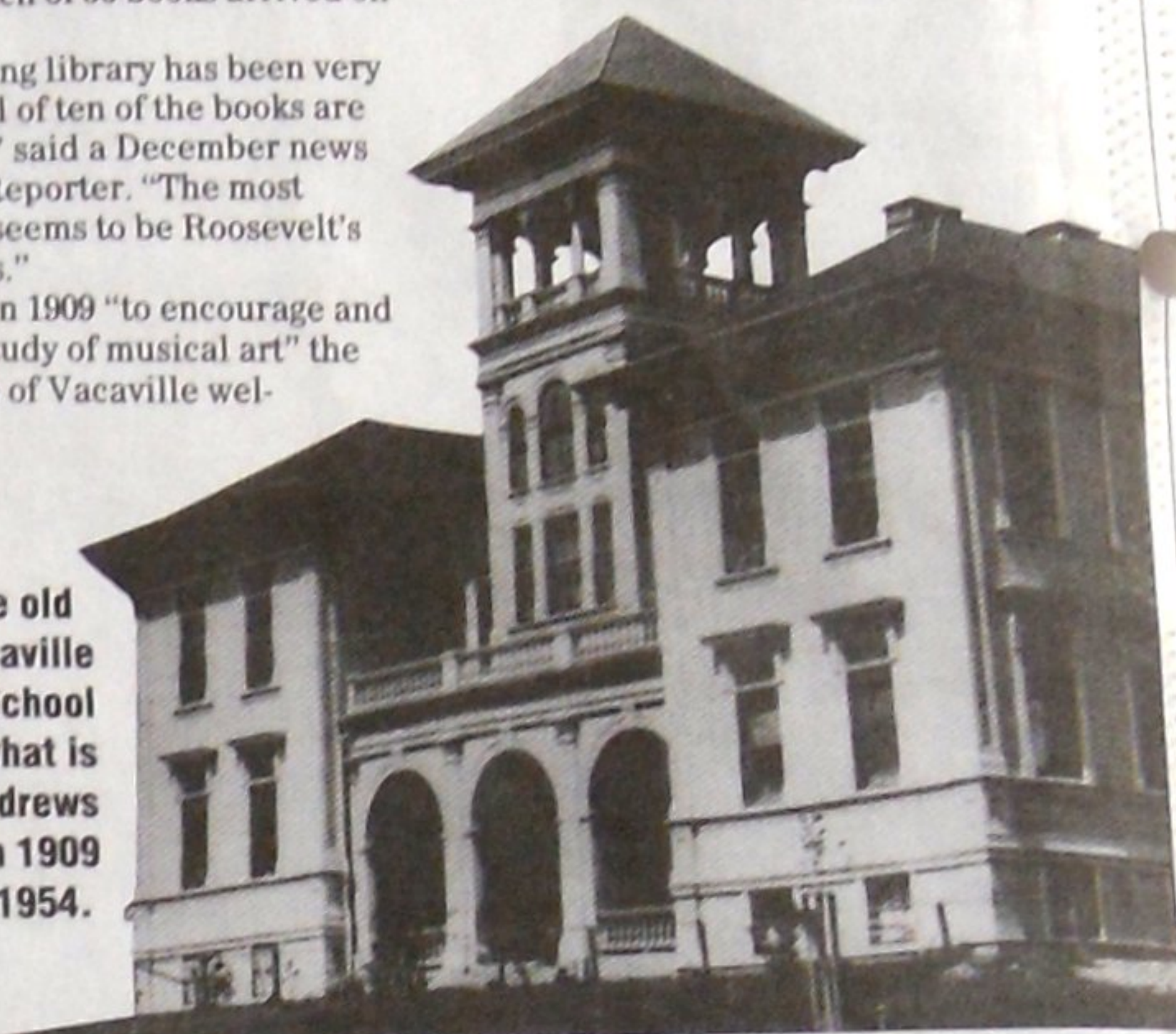
The grammar schools opened that year on Aug. 31 with 167 students enrolled, a drop from the previous year's enrollment of 190.

The Reporter cautioned against concern over the decrease, reminding readers, that, "The falling off can be accounted for because many of the children are working in the fruit and will come in later."

Education may have been a priority, but the imperatives of the fruit economy continued to regulate school schedules.

The old Vacaville Grammar School stood in what is now Andrews Park from 1909 to 1954.

Vacaville Museum

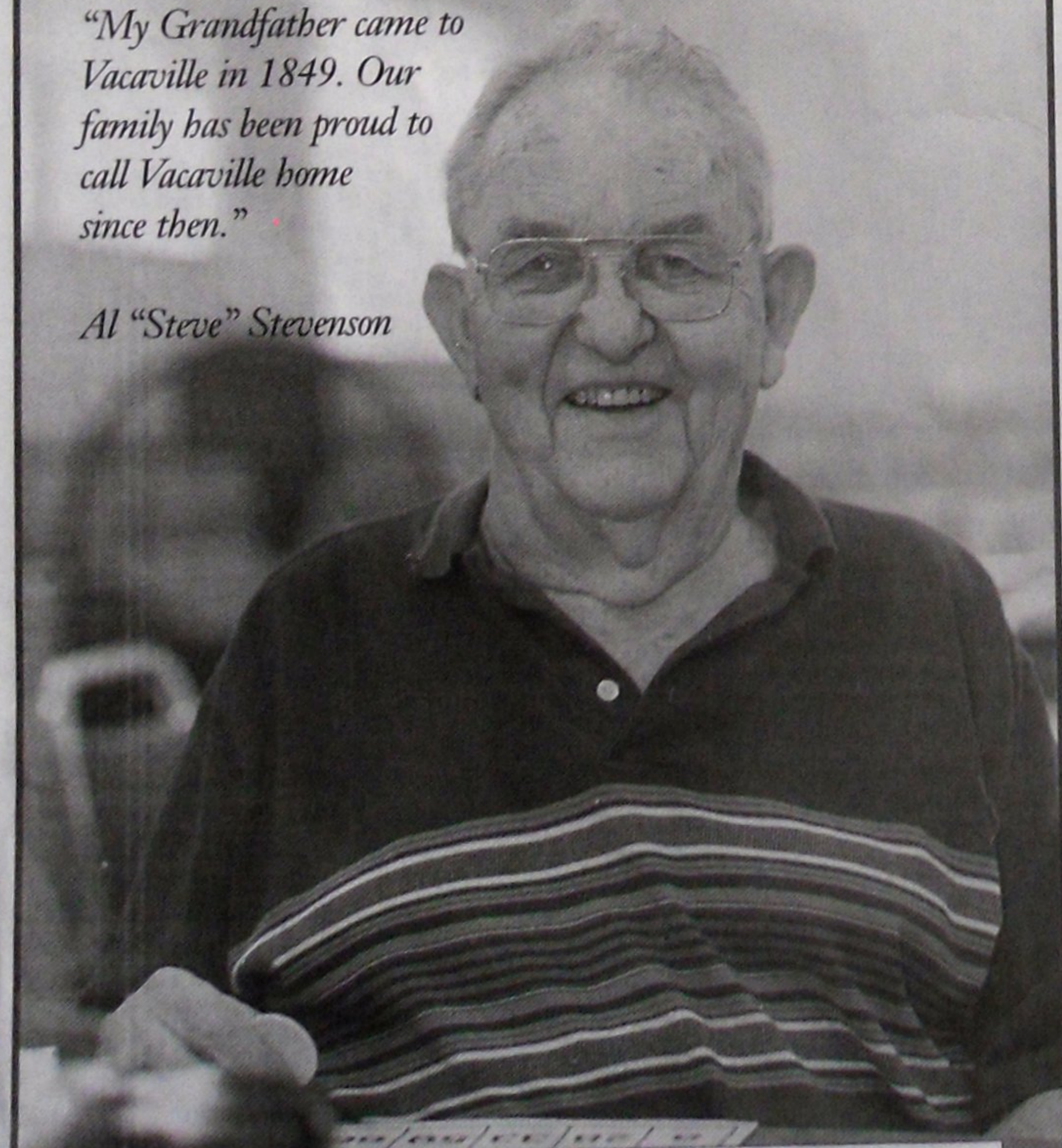


## Regent at Summerfield House Residents Remember

Some of the most respected names in Vacaville call Summerfield House home.

*"My Grandfather came to Vacaville in 1849. Our family has been proud to call Vacaville home since then."*

Al "Steve" Stevenson



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## THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JIM SHOCK

## A Business Is Born...

James Wilson Shock



When Jim Shock decided to make the furniture business his stock-in-trade after World War II, he had no idea how many wonderful people along the way would play a part in helping him realize his dreams. During World War II, it was common for families throughout the United States to take in soldiers and Navy enlisted men who were far away from home. Jim Shock, a Missourian and seaman, along with other military personnel, was invited to stay as a guest during his rest and relaxation leave at the Berkeley home of prominent furniture businessman, Earl Grant. During his stay, Mr. Grant saw tremendous business acumen and potential in the young seaman as did his lovely daughter, Sarah who later married Jim.

With the war going on, many furniture businesses throughout the country shut down to make tents and army cots for the U.S. Government. Springs in sofas were often constructed with stovepipe fittings to replace traditional spring foundations, all to save metal for the war effort. After 1946, Jim joined his future father-in-law as a wholesaler of "Virtue of California" Furniture in San Francisco. When Earl "Grandpappy" Grant, retired in 1965, Jim became an independent representative of Futurian-Stratford and Futuristic Furniture Companies in 11 states including Hawaii.

With a growing family and a sincere love of the business, Jim yearned to have a furniture store of his own. In the early 1970's, Jim shopped various Bay Area locations to start his new venture. Then, in 1976, he opened Shock's Furniture Interiors on Main Street in Vacaville. The beauty of the Vaca Valley and the tremendous growth spurt in Solano county sealed Jim's decision to settle here.

Shortly after opening his store in the same location originally occupied by California Furniture, disaster struck! His warehouse, along with his entire furniture inventory, was completely destroyed by fire! Stricken, but not defeated, Jim rallied his friends in the retail furniture business and purchased furniture he hand-picked from their showrooms. Once again, Jim opened a 10,000 square foot showroom and warehouse to an eager public.

Twenty-three years after opening his doors, Jim is grateful that his father-in-law, Earl Grant took a special interest in him and taught him the business from the ground up. Jim's commitment to hard work, fair prices, great customer service and providing the finest quality furnishings to the community infused integrity into the furniture industry and fulfilled a lifelong dream for Jim Shock and his family...Earl Grant made the right decision 53 years ago...Jim thinks so too.

So the Saga continues in next month's Century Edition...

The new generation of Shock's is alive and well, so come visit them today at:



**Shock's** "The Home Comfort Store" and LA-Z-Boy Gallery

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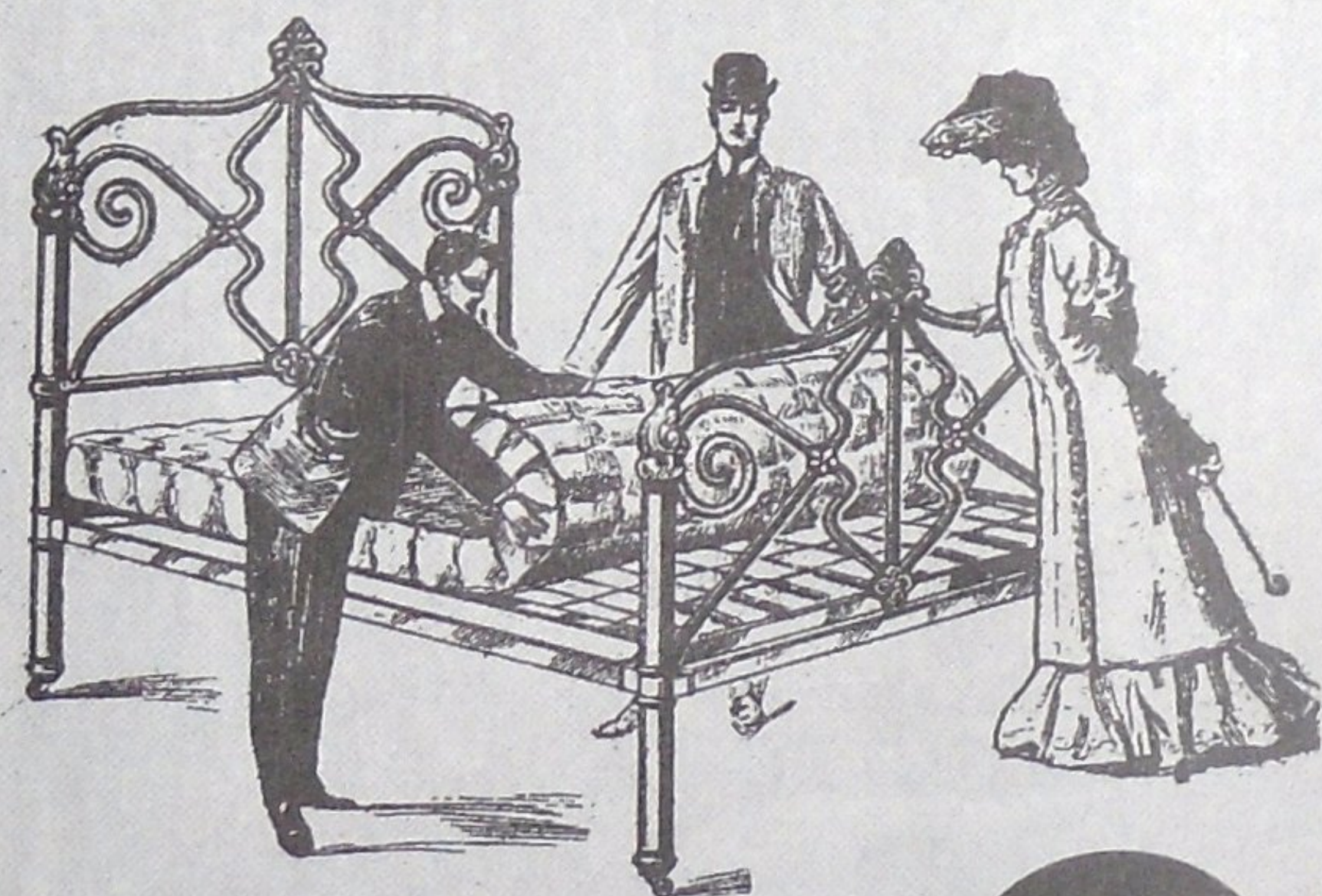


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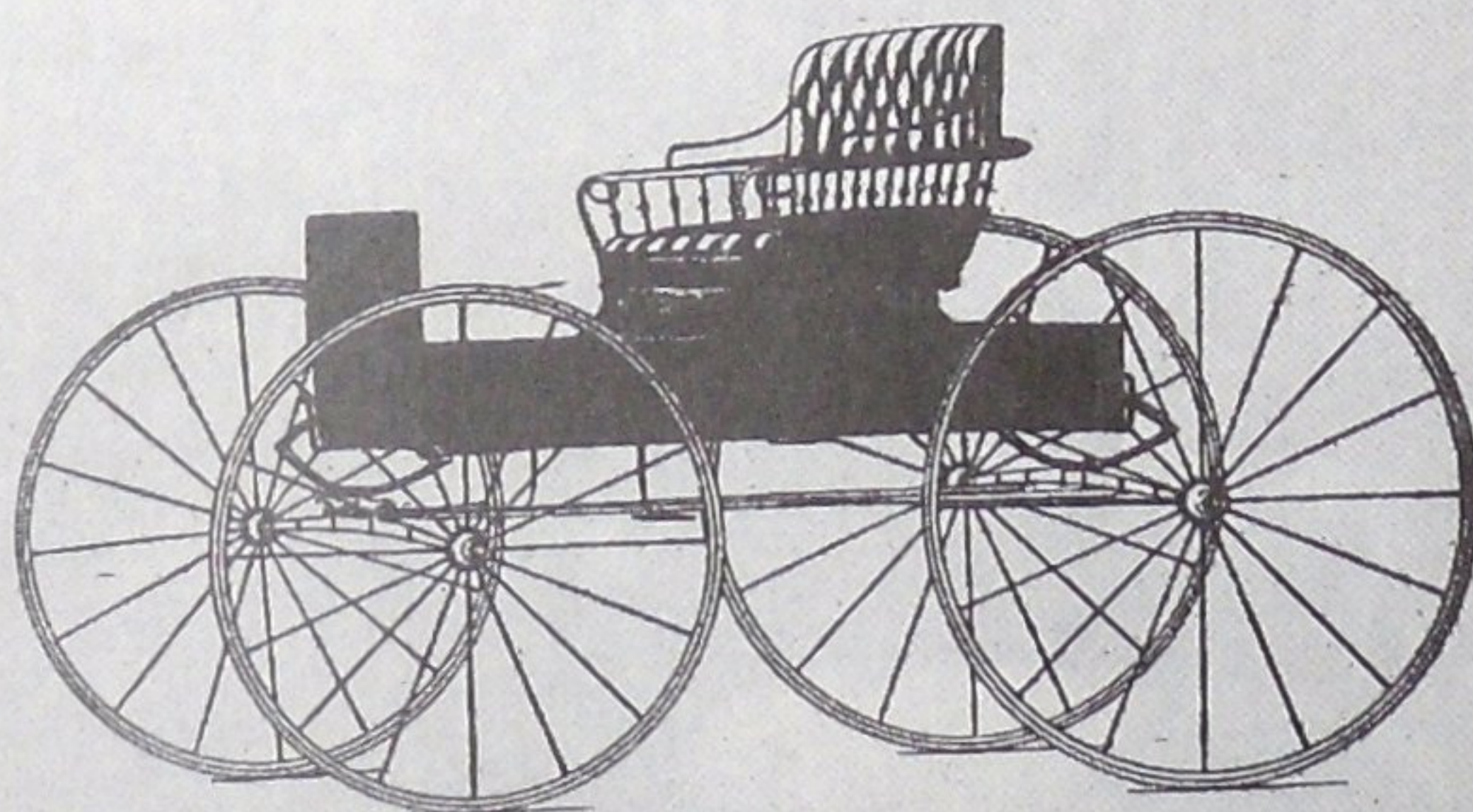
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FASHIONED  
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AND  
PRICES**

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Center**  
...through the decades.

**WE HAVE  
WHEELS FOR  
YOUR BUGGY**

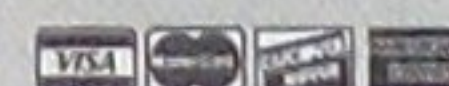


1906 Prize winner Runabout. This buggy retailed at \$39.95. The front wheels are 42", rear wheels 46", they are made of carefully selected hickory. In 1906 you could substitute rubber tires starting at \$53.95.

**Ken's Performance  
Center**



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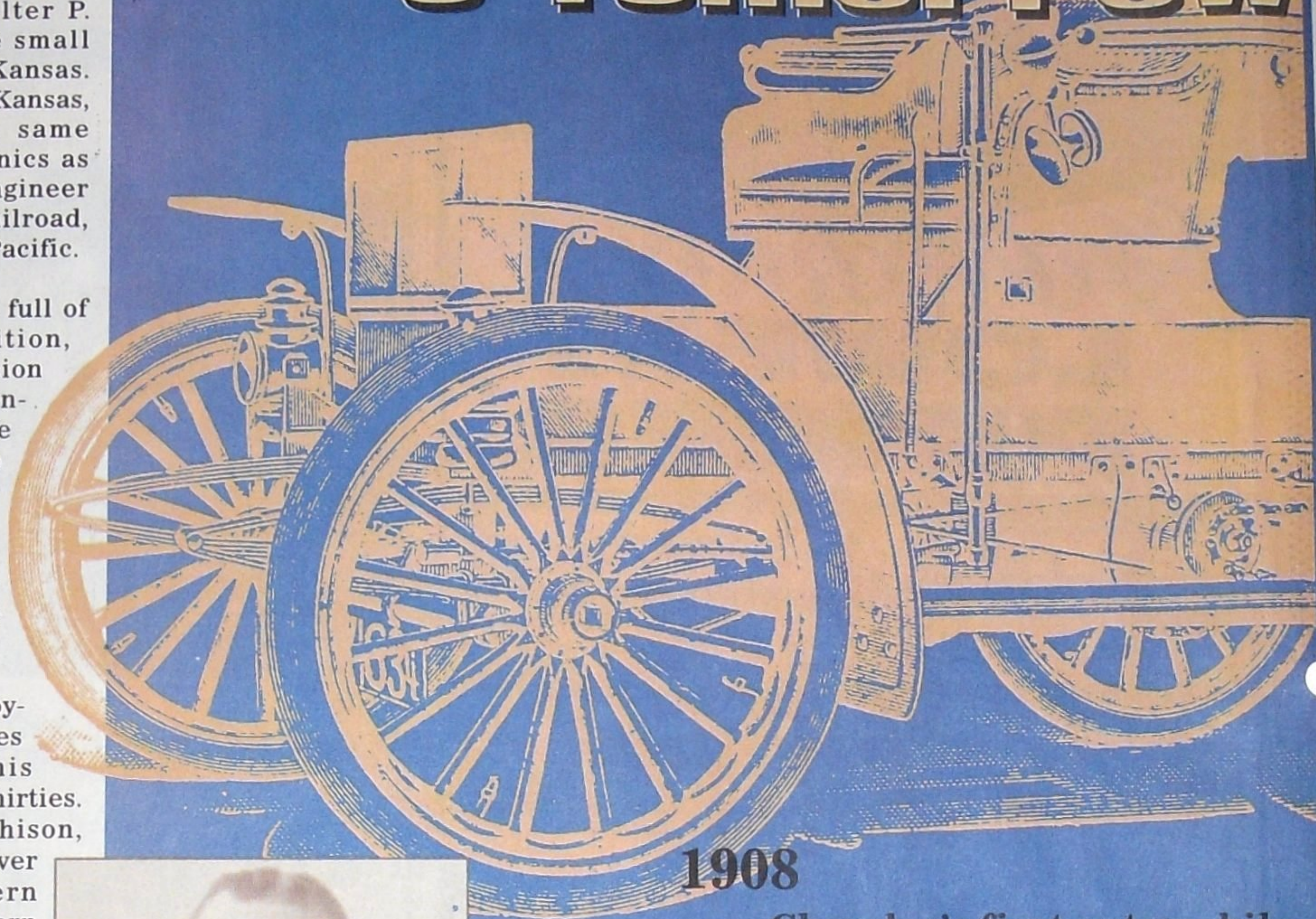
# Meeting the Challenges of Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

On April 2, 1875, Walter P. Chrysler was born in the small prairie town of Wamego, Kansas. While growing up in Ellis, Kansas, Chrysler expressed the same healthy interest in mechanics as his father, a locomotive engineer with the Kansas Pacific Railroad, which later became Union Pacific.

Fresh out of school and full of teenage energy and ambition, Chrysler signed on as a Union Pacific machinist's apprentice. At 18, his strong sense of initiative led him to design and assemble a functional miniature steam locomotive that he demonstrated for curious onlookers on an eighth-of-a-mile track.

Chrysler's trend of employment with railroad companies would last throughout his twenties and into his early thirties. While working for the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad, Colorado & Southern Railroad, the Chicago Great Western Railroad, and finally the American Locomotive Co., he consistently dazzled his employers and earned a reputation as an all-around effective executive.

It was in 1908 at the Chicago automobile show, however, that Chrysler's interest was first piqued by the new form of transportation. At the event, he saw a white car with a red interior called a Locomobile selling for \$5,000. After raising the money to purchase it, Chrysler had the Locomobile shipped to his home where he immediately took it apart. With this first car, his only goal was to learn how it worked and make design and construction improvements.



1908

Chrysler's first automobile



Walter P. Chrysler  
b. 1875 – d. 1940

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1900-1909

THE PAST CENTURY

# THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE

Vacaville played role in relief for quake victims

By Barbara Smith  
Special to The Reporter

**I**T L. Gates had a cell phone on April 18, 1906, he would have been spared a harrowing two days wondering what happened to his wife in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

Vacaville was lucky, after the temblor struck at 5:15 p.m., the ground was level and its buildings still stood, though telegraph and telephone lines were down.

But wives, husbands, friends and relatives were in the city.

Gates, a Vacaville rancher, headed for San Francisco immediately to find his wife, who was visiting friends. By now, fires were sweeping the city, destroying buildings that had withstood the initial shock.

Gates spent two days searching for his wife, who had already crossed the bay via ferry and was safe in Berkeley. Although Mrs. Gates had sent word to Vacaville, her husband could not be located. The couple were separated until Friday evening, three anxiety-filled days after the earthquake.

R.L. Reid went to the city Wednesday afternoon, also to find his wife. Not until 11 p.m., after walking for hours through the broken and burning buildings, did he find her safe and sound at her brother's home on McAllister Street.

By that time, dynamite was being used as a desperate measure to control the fires. Martial law was in effect

and no one was allowed inside any structure. The Reids spent the night in Golden Gate Park.

Dr. A.P. Finan was staying at the Lick House when the ceiling fell in. A rooftop water tank toppled over, causing water to rush into Dr. Finan's room. He said he believed that the quake had caused the entire city to fall into the ocean. The Reporter wrote he then "covered his head and prepared to die as comfortably as possible."

Many other Vacaville residents were in San Francisco when the disaster hit. Considering that the earthquake and fires killed 452 people, leveled 490 blocks, destroyed 25,000 buildings and left 225,000 people homeless, it seems a miracle that the Vacaville residents who experienced the earthquake returned home safely.

When Vacaville learned of the magnitude of the destruction, the entire town rallied to provide assis-

tance to the city and relief to the homeless.

The Red Cross Society, led by president Mrs. H.D. Chandler, organized committees to aid the earthquake victims. Vacaville ladies and their daughters planned to meet the trains and feed the refugees, secure bed-clothing, and prepare boxes of infant clothing to be sent to maternity hospitals in the battered city.

Fifty people accepted Vacaville's offer of shelter and employment, most of them staying and working on local ranches. When private employment opportunities had been exhausted, they were given work on the city streets and were paid daily from city funds.

Vacaville's Company I, Second Regiment of the National Guard, was notified at 1 a.m. Friday that it was being summoned for guard and patrol duty in San Francisco. More than 40 men from Vacaville and Elmira, head-

ed by Capt. Condon, a teacher at Vacaville High School, left for the stricken city on a special train at 11 a.m. Friday. They would remain in San Francisco for 27 days.

Vacaville residents sent care packages to Company I to enjoy as reminders of home. Mrs. Fred Buck sent cakes, S.P. Dobbins sent walnuts, Jack Wooden sent apricots, the Blum boys sent prunes and Harry Watson sent freshly harvested cherries.

Company I's popularity grew, and not just in Vacaville.

On May 12, 1906, The Reporter's update of the experiences of Company I, written by a correspondent in San Francisco, states: "The Vacaville girls had better wake up and pay attention. The soldierboys of Company I are prime favorites with the fair sex of this city."

Company I returned home May 16, 1906, to the fanfare of a large crowd and the music of the Williams band.

Social events make weather more bearable

**A** number of social affairs have taken place the past two weeks, despite the hot weather. The pleasant evenings have made outdoor social life very attractive, and the ladies have taken advantage of the opportunity.

On Tuesday, the 10th, Mrs. F.A. Steiger and Mrs. M.R. Miller entertained at the home of Mrs. Steiger in honor of Mrs. R.L. Reid, who has since left to reside in Berkeley. There were about fifty ladies present between the hours of 10 and 1. Cards and games were made the diversion of the hour, and about 1 o'clock lunch was served.

On Thursday, the 12th, Miss Bissell and Miss Ethel Jones entertained about twenty of the younger set at the home of their mother, Mrs. Eva Jones. The party was in honor of Miss Almah Hollenback of Oakland, who has been their guest the past few weeks. The hours were from 10 to 1. Hearts and games made the time pass very pleasantly...

The Misses May and Maude Buck entertained about twenty of their friends on Friday afternoon and evening, the 13th. The young ladies industriously sewed until 6 o'clock, when a very elaborate supper was served. The warm, bright evening was spent on the lawn in social conversation and games.

Miss Ruth Hoyt entertained twenty of her young friends Thursday evening last at the home of her sister, Mrs. R.H. Platt. Cards and games were played and the evening was spent on the lawn. Mrs. Maury Robinson and her sister, Miss Eva Fairweather, entertained the members of the progressive dinner party of some weeks ago at a lawn picnic on Thursday evening, the 12th.

This afternoon Miss Lillian Buck and Miss Laura Caldwell will entertain at Miss Buck's home.

Vacaville Reporter, July 21, 1906



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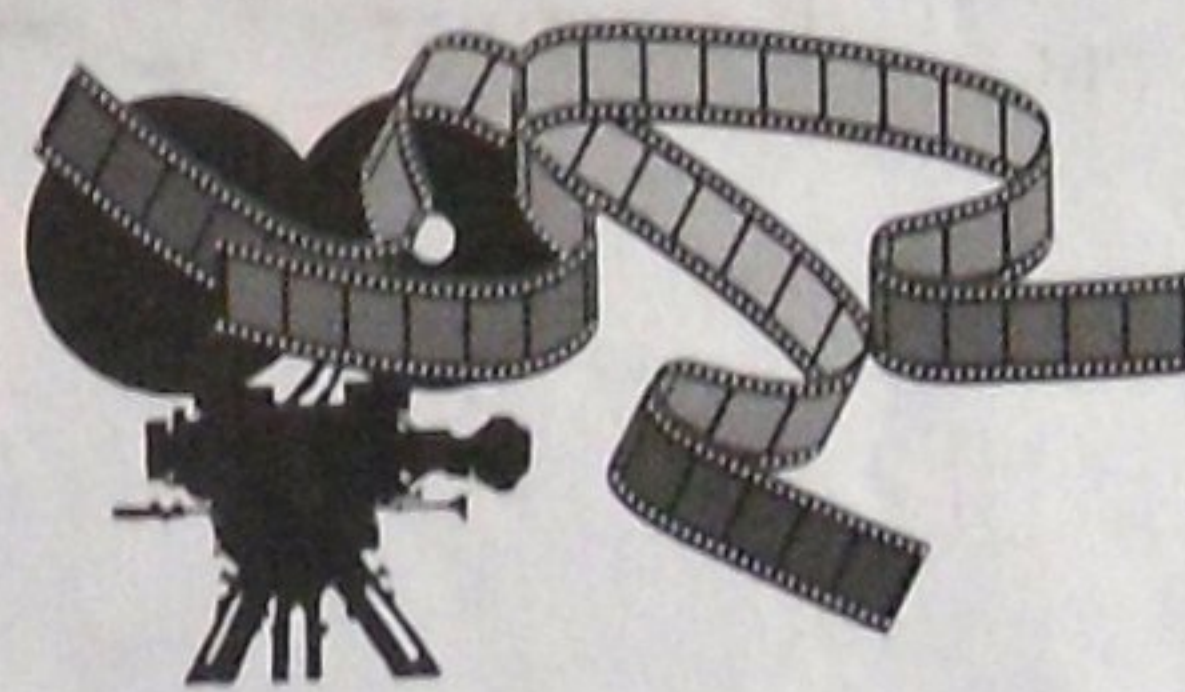
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*A look back...*  
1900's

Hello, I'm Jerry Thornton, founder of Thornton & Sons jewelers. Since my business did not come into existence until 1970, I'll give some interesting facts each month on the history of jewelry and stones.

### Birthstones

January	Garnet
February	Amethyst
March	Aquamarine
April	Diamond
May	Emerald
June	Pearl Alexandrite
July	Ruby
August	Peridot
September	Sapphire
October	Opal Tourmaline
November	Topaz
December	Turquoise Zircon



Jerry Thornton  
Owner, Thornton & Sons

### Aquamarine - March Birthstone

Aquamarine is the blue to greenish blue variety of beryl. The name is derived from a Latin word meaning "sea water" due to its color. Found primarily in Brazil, aquamarine is also mined in Madagascar and Africa. Aquamarine is commonly heated to eliminate green undertones. Aquamarine is the birthstone for March and is designated for the 18th wedding anniversary.

**Thornton & Sons**  
Jewelers of  
Imagination

TIFFANY & Co.

Ω  
OMEGA

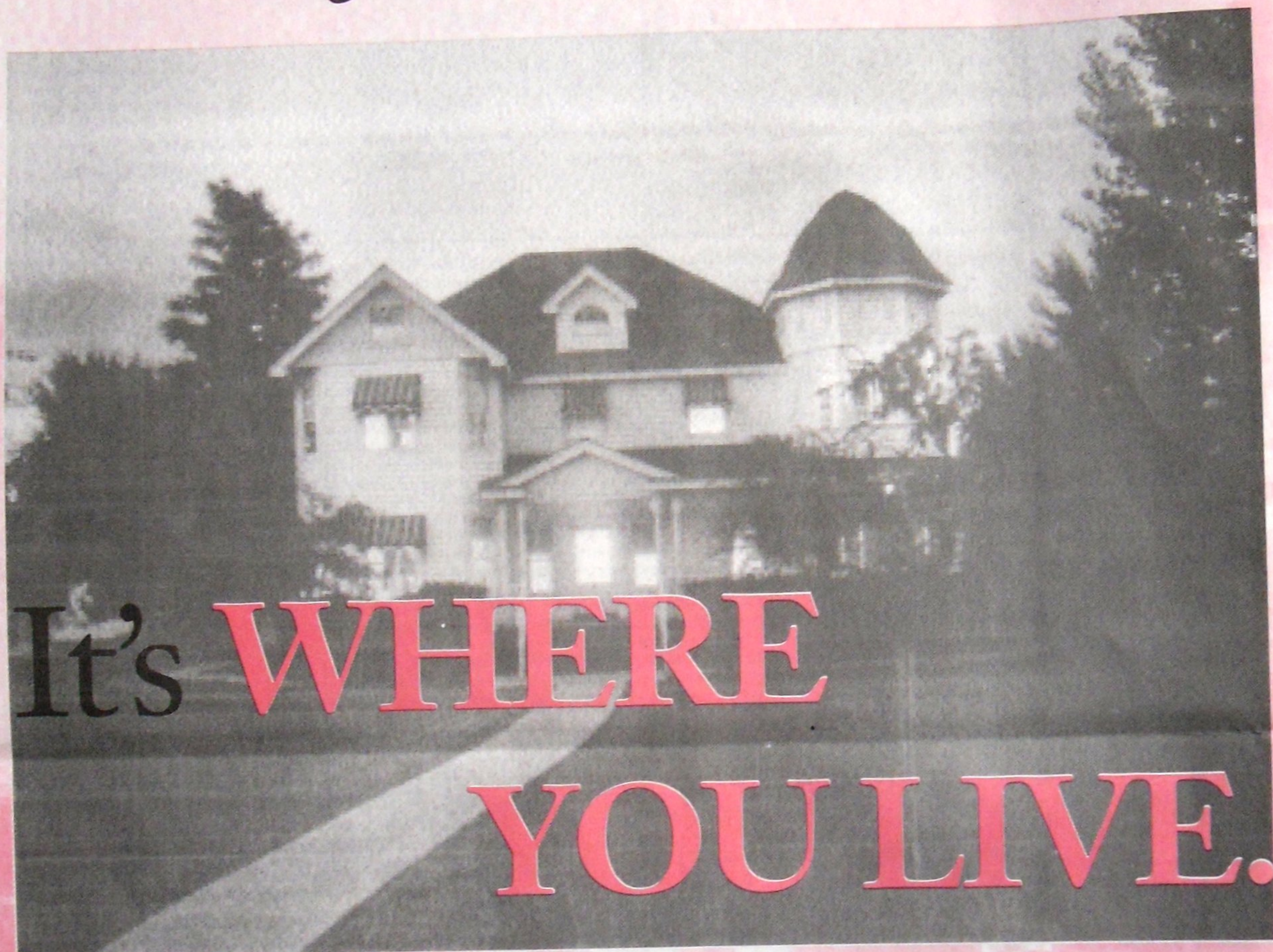
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## CALL FOR CURRENT PRICES



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1900-1909

THE PAST CENTURY

## Barcar tells ruffians to keep off bus

The 'bus of the Hotel Raleigh is exclusively for the guests of the hotel. All others must pay and cannot be permitted to enter the 'bus until the traveling public has a chance to secure a seat.

The 'bus has been crowded with the non-paying residents of Vacaville at times, to an extent which has shut out travelers desiring to go to the Hotel Raleigh, or caused them to be uncomfortably crowded or seriously annoyed.

If you are a guest of the Hotel Raleigh the 'bus is at your service. If you are not, keep out of the 'bus until the guests of the Hotel Raleigh have a chance, and if you ride therein after that, pay for the service.

The 'bus is not the equivalent of a free street car for the accommodation of boys or idlers, either. All of that class will keep out at all times.

Raleigh Barcar, Manager  
Vacaville Reporter  
Oct. 28, 1905

## Voter prayer given in jest

The politician is my shepherd. I shall not want any good thing during the campaign. He leadeth me into the saloon for my vote's sake. He filleth my pockets with good cigars; my glass of beer runneth over.

He prepareth my ticket for me in the presence of my judgment.

Yea, though I walk through mud and rain to vote for him and shout myself hoarse, when he is elected, straightway he forgetteth me.

Lo! When I meeteth him in his own office he knoweth me not. Surely the wool hath been pulled over my eyes all the days of my life.

Anonymous  
Sept. 24, 1904

## Circus Day at Vacaville: THURSDAY, APRIL 19th

**THE GREAT**

**100 CIRCUS CHAMPIONS AND CELEBRITIES 100**

22 FAMOUS EQUESTRIANS  
18 Daring Aerialists  
23 MERRY CLOWNS

**Le Fleur Troupe**  
10 Lovely Ladies of Faultless Form in Classic Poses on a Great Revolving Pedestal.

11 Arabian Tumblers  
Celebrated  
**Stirk (10) Family**  
America's Greatest Cyclists and Roller Skaters

10 Reckless Rough Riders  
100 SHETLAND PONY BALLET  
**Marvelous Picards**  
Aerialists Supreme

7 Russian Cossacks  
SUPERB GARLAND ENTREE

42 DOUBLE LENGTH R. R. CARS  
500 PEOPLE  
350 HORSES  
MUSEUM  
Double Menagerie  
Real Roman Hippodrome  
Scores of Trained Wild Beasts  
**Pretty EDNA MARETTA**  
The Only Lady in the Entire World who throws SOMERSAULTS on the Naked Back of a Swiftly Running Horse.

Thundering Roman Chariot Races  
Educated SEALS & SEA LIONS  
A COMPLETE JAPANESE CIRCUS  
9 SENSATIONAL EQUILIBRISTS  
Only Lady Japanese Artists in America  
20 Astonishing Acrobats  
HIGHEST JUMPING HORSES  
HERDS PERFORMING ELEPHANTS  
CAMELS, LLAMAS AND BOS INDICUS  
CAKE WALKING HORSES  
TRAINED IMPORTED ARABIAN STALLIONS

**Grand STREET PARADE** 10:30 DAILY

PERFORMANCES AT 2 AND 8 P. M.

A large ad in The Reporter on April 14, 1906, promotes a circus coming to town.

## Cruelty to colt draws jail stay

A stranger, who gave the name as Dr. Arthur M. Lawrence, was arrested last Friday afternoon on complaint of Constable C.H. Downing and charged with cruelty to animals.

Lawrence drove a mare into town, a young colt following. The colt was in an exhausted condition and scarcely able to walk, the front hoofs being worn to the quick and blood issuing therefrom.

Dr. Lawrence had driven from Napa that day and insisted on continuing to Vacaville, when he was arrested at the suggestion of several citizens.

His case came up for trial before Judge W.W.R. Reeves Monday, District Attorney Gregory appearing for the people. Senator B.F. Rush, S.H. LaShells, W.H. Bryan, T.P. Emigh and C.H. Downing were the witnesses. The defendant was found guilty as charged and fined ten dollars. Being without funds Lawrence is serving ten days in the county jail. He defended his own case.

Solano Republican  
May 20, 1905

## Voting machine

To enable the voters of this vicinity to familiarize themselves with the workings of the voting machines recently adopted by the Board of Supervisors, County Clerk Halliday has sent to Vacaville a miniature machine, which is now on exhibition at the Bank of Vacaville.

It is extremely simple in operation, and voters are invited to examine into its workings.

One great advantage in the use of the machines lies in the fact that they automatically register the number of votes cast for each candidate, thus enabling the election officers to announce the result as soon as the polls are closed.

Vacaville Reporter  
Sept. 17, 1904

## Auto arrives

An automobile passed through town Wednesday and was an object of some interest. In time to come we expect to see them in the local livery stables, and making regular trips to connect with all trains at Elmira.

Vacaville Reporter  
1901

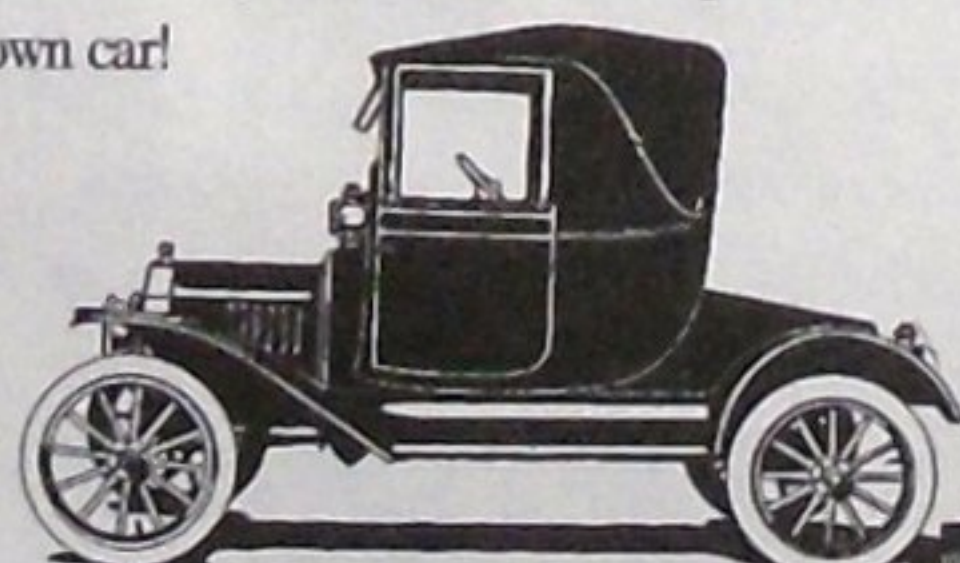
## A PART OF HISTORY

### "Always A Car Buff"

Henry Ford first experimented with a horseless carriage in the 1890s. He later introduced the very successful Model T Ford in 1908. Monte and Ron Wilson, now co-owners of Import Service Center, began with Ron's interest in cars when he was 14 years old. His free time was spent under the hood of any car that needed repairs. He couldn't wait to drive his own car!

Monte leaning on Ron's '53 Ford Coupe

**IMPORT SERVICE CENTER**  
938 East Monte Vista • Vacaville  
**446-4066**  
Open M-F 8am-5:00pm



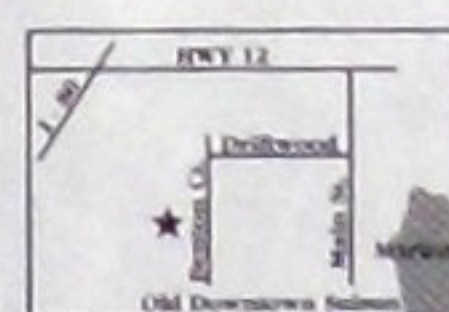
### Windows for your home

We deliver and install windows and doors that will keep you cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter using twentieth-century materials that create an air-tight seal yet are beautiful to look at. You will want to invite your friends over just to see and enjoy your new windows and doors from California Window Systems.

(We promise not to tell them how much money you saved.)



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"Endorsed by Family Pets Everywhere"

### For Your Cat

We Carry (wet & dry)

- Iams
- Science Diet
- Nutro Max Cat
- Innova
- Eukanuba
- Sensible Choice
- And more!

Full line of cat supplies, beds, collars and toys.

### For Your Dog

We Carry (wet & dry)

- California Natural
- Iams
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- Nutro Max
- Innova
- Anmar
- Pro Plan
- And more!

Full line of dog supplies, beds, collars, enclosures, and toys.



### For The Birds

Full Line of Bird Supplies, Cages and Toys

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Other sizes available

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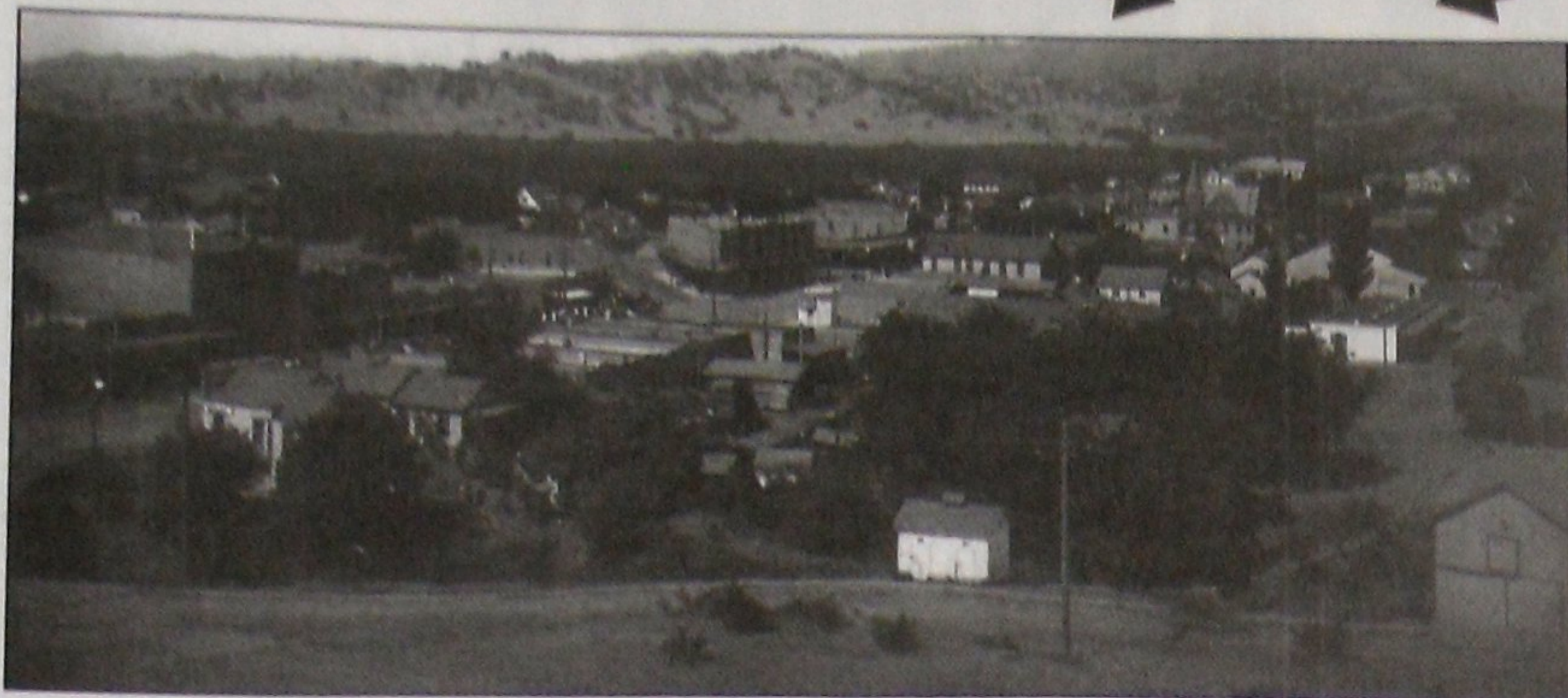
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KUIC Plaza, 600 E. Main Street, Suite 100





Downtown Vacaville in 1907 as seen from what is now Andrews Park.

Reporter file photo

## Optimism in new century...

(Continued from Page 3)

summer. Roads and the highways around the region were rough. A gravel mixture called macadam was used to smooth streets. Asphalt finally paved Main Street in 1914.

The town of Vacaville in 1900 desired the same thing as today's business owners: To be a destination for travelers and shoppers.

A first-class hotel was widely discussed. By 1900, Hotel Raleigh was the only one in town. It was undergoing repairs in 1902 when a fruit company executive and his wife came to Vacaville on business. The Reporter lamented that the executive's wife had no decent hotel in which to stay.

"It seems to be the need of community pride to have a first-class hotel where tourists would be attracted," noted the editor.

Good highways were necessary to attract tourists, continued the Sept. 13, 1902, article. Vacaville might have to become a "dry town" because "eastern tourists are reported to be prejudiced against the sale of liquor."

"There are essentials like a sewer system and trifles like golf links to be secured and the proposition may be

assured."

The newspaper, however, acknowledged that no one wants to invest in such an enterprise because of the simple fact that it couldn't make money.

When Hotel Raleigh was destroyed by fire in 1909 and the town would remain without a hotel for 11 years.

The Interstate 80 connection has since created a sizable motel industry in Vacaville. But a major hotel? As The Reporter noted in 1901, "it will not (happen) naturally until the town's increase in population permits an assurance of success and substantial returns."

The trustees did consider the social and cultural well-being of the town. In June 1901, for example, the township approved \$6 a month for band concerts during the summer months. "It has given pleasure to those who visit town during the concerts and has been a source of attracting people to Vacaville, to the benefit of merchants," noted The Reporter.

The demise of Hotel Raleigh, the town's 25-year-old landmark, revealed again the weaknesses of the town's fire-fighting abilities. Outdated equipment and poor water pressure worked against the smoke eaters who managed to save

many buildings around the Raleigh, but not the hotel from going up in smoke.

Vacaville trustees would finally have a modern department in 1916 when the 30-man volunteer unit received the town's first self-propelled fire engine.

The township of Vacaville was just a handful of streets in the 1890s where commerce took up shop on Main Street and hoped for good fortune against the forces of nature — fire, drought, flood and frost.

The town is now a mix of retail, professional and business services. Merchants promote the downtown with special events year-round to distinguish itself from the shopping center onslaught.

Vacaville's pride in 1915, the Carnegie Library, is now into a fourth or fifth life as headquarters of the Vacaville Chamber of Commerce.

At the other end of downtown, Old Town Hall, two stories tall and still topped by its Moorish bell tower, is structurally sound and home to the city's Heritage Council and local genealogical society.

The little fruit town's heart still has a good foundation going into the 21st century.

## Ranch land to homes...

(Continued from Page 3)

the west side of Elizabeth Street and his own on the northeast corner of Boyd and Stevenson streets. These homes became the core of Vacaville's oldest residential neighborhood.

The original plan for Vacaville was created when Juan Manuel Vaca deeded nine square miles to William McDaniel of Benicia. The plot filed in 1851 showed a grid system of streets and four public squares similar to other Spanish towns of the era.

"The ambitious town plan was virtually disregarded as a plan for growth. The plan called for the town to be developed on north and east side of Ulatis Creek," noted Glenn Ovitt, a former Vacaville resident and architectural student, in his 1987 study of the city's housing history.

"Instead, building occurred along the stage route, what would become Merchant Street, named after J.B. Merchant, an early blacksmith of Vacaville, and Main Street."

Vacaville, a sleepy hay and grain farming town, consisted of a block bordered by Main, Merchant and Bernard streets during its first two decades. Small, simple gable-roofed, clapboard and board and batten houses stood along the streets, intermixed with a few businesses, wrote Ovitt.

Beginning in the 1870s, businesses began to line Main Street as the fruit industry started to grow. Residences, however humble, were moved off the main thoroughfare.

Cottages or bungalows were built east and south of what had become a distinct business district. For those laborers who didn't live on the ranches, there were boardinghouses. Many shopkeepers made their home above or behind their stores.

By the turn of the century, the city's entire population numbered just 1,100 inhabitants. Today they could be housed in just one of Vacaville's major apartment complexes.

But in March 1902 The Reporter urged "moneyed men who up to the present have never built a house, to increase the population of the town and at the same time secure a profitable investment."

The door west opened in 1890 when

the Buck Mansion was built along what was an extension of Main Street.

Named the Buck Western Addition, it was a showplace for the work of master builder and designer George Sharpe. Among his many projects were the 1898 high school, the 1909 grammar school, the 1891 Presbyterian Church and the Carnegie Library, built in 1915.

Most of the large homes were designed in the popular style of the decade, Queen Anne Victorian. Most cost about \$5,000 to build — a grand sum for the times, given a comfortable two-story house could be built for as little as \$1,200.

The Buck Mansion on the west side of the Vacaville Museum remains the symbol of that golden age. Soon after, other successful business and ranching families, such as the Chandlers and the Rogerses, built larger homes along the growing Buck Avenue.

Kentucky Street, named for the home state of Mrs. Frank H. Buck, became the western border of town, which by now had passed right on by West Street.

Vacant lots on West Main Street and Kendal also were becoming new neighborhoods. As noted in The Reporter's Town Talk of March 2, 1901:

"The west end of town continues to grow. Miss Carrie Dunkerson has given contractor George H. Sharpe a contract to build two cottages on the lots she recently purchased from John Winterbottom situated on the corner of Kendall and West Streets. The lots have a frontage of 76 feet on Kendal and 115 feet on West. They will front Kendal and will cost something over \$2,000. The cottage will contain five rooms each."

At the dawn of the 20th century, just 50 years after its founding, noted Ovitt, Vacaville was a closely knit, well-established and prosperous small town.

Note: The Vacaville Museum recently published "Vacaville Walking Tour" of Buck Avenue and West Main Street. Based on the research and writings of Ovitt, the booklet features 29 historical homes and locations with early photos of several of the major houses.



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Husqvarna is prestigious name in home sewing, both as a Swedish producer of high-quality sewing machines and as a worldwide organization marketing a complete line of sewing machines and sergers for home use.

Founded as a royal arms factory in 1689, Husqvarna has been making sewing machines since 1872.

### Since 1689...an Unbroken Record of Engineering Excellence

Through the years, many products bearing the name Husqvarna have become famous for their dependability and performance.

Today, sewing machines, chain saws, lawn mowers and white goods continue to build the reputation of the Husqvarna brand.



**1689** Husqvarna founded as a royal arms factory.

**1757** Transferred into private hands.

**1872** First Sewing Machine.

**1874** Production of cast-iron household products.

**1896** First bicycle.

**1908** First Motorcycle.

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BRING IN THIS AD BETWEEN 3/28 - 4/24 AND RECEIVE 15% OFF ANY NOTIONS.



## Domino party hit of season

**M**rs. W.E. Lawrence, Mrs. W.S. Killingsworth, Mrs. J.W. Spear and Mrs. S.P. Dobbins were the hostesses Thursday evening at a pink domino party, which proved to be a very enjoyable innovation and one of the most successful of the season's social affairs.

Masonic hall, which was the scene of the gathering, was very artistically decorated, masses of fruit blossoms and twining ivy and smilax proving very effective.

Fully 150 people were present, the identity of most being hidden beneath mask and domino. One hundred and ten took part in the grand march.

In most cases the disguise of the dancers prevented even their most intimate friends from recognizing them, and much merriment resulted from the endeavor to discover one another's identity. Early in the evening all were requested to unmask and the balance of the time passed all too quickly in the enjoyment of the dance.

Refreshments were served in the banquet rooms, which had also been handsomely decorated with ivy and masses of graceful acacia, while tall bouquets of buttercups and scattered sprays of maiden hair fern gave a very artistic touch to the tables.

A pleasant surprise was afforded by Mrs. L.H. Peterson of San Francisco, who favored those present with several songs.

Vacaville Reporter  
March 2, 1907



Vacaville Museum

Where is the equal?  
Our Ever Increasing  
SALES



OUR TASTE HAM  
IS POSITIVE PROOF OF THEIR  
QUALITY AND EXCELLENCE  
AKERLY'S  
THE BEST OF GOOD GOODS.  
East Main Street  
VACAVILLE

## Vacaville's best of good goods

George P. Akerly was one of Vacaville's most prominent and respected businessmen near the turn of the century and for several decades afterward. Akerly (above right) is shown in Akerly's General Merchandise Store in 1900 with Patsy McLaughlin (above left) and Frank Ellison. Located in the Masonic Building, Akerly's General Merchandise Store claimed the slogan: "If you can't find it at Akerly's, there's no use looking anywhere else." Remembered one former employee, "He just had everything." Also, as an Akerly's General Merchandise Store ad in the Vacaville Reporter of May 18, 1901, claims (left), it was the place to find "The best of good goods." The store was destroyed by fire in 1939 shortly after Akerly sold the business to A.A. Collier.

## Graffiti scars post office walls

**T**he post office of Vacaville seems to be the place selected by most everyone upon the walls of which to display their wants and notices in the form of small advertisements.

The walls are disfigured with every manner of sign and pencil mark until they resemble an

Egyptian obelisk more than that of "Uncle Sam's" well-cared-for offices. Everything from a bunch of Spiritualistic literature to a splash of dried up ink has its place upon the walls and more is being added every day.

Vacaville Reporter  
1901

## Akerly bond source of much fascination

**O**n Wednesday, Jan. 6, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. George P. Akerly, Vacaville, Frank Herbert Buck and Mrs. Jennie J. Dobbins were united in marriage by Rev. James Curry of the Presbyterian church.

Promptly at high noon the bride and groom, preceded by Miss Cecil Anderson bearing the wedding ring upon a cushion of white satin, entered the parlors to the sweet strains of Mendelssohn's wedding march played by Miss Maude Buck. They took their station under a canopy of trailing smilax, and the vows were quickly spoken that made them man and wife. After congratulations, refreshments were served and a pleasant time was enjoyed until it was necessary for the newly wedded couple to depart for the train, which they took at Elmira.

The bride was gowned in a costume of pastel blue voile, and carried a bouquet of white carnations. Mr. and Mrs. Buck are well known as among our most worthy and estimable citizens, and upon their return will make their home on his father's fruit ranch, a few miles out of town.

Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. I.K. Buck, Dr. and Mrs. W.J. Dobbins, Mr. and Mrs. George P. Akerly, Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Fairbank of Sacramento, Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Buck, Mrs. Granville Cecil and Cecil Anderson of Davisville, Mr. and Mrs. F.M. Buck, Morris Buck, Rev. and Mrs. Jas. Curry, Misses May, Gertrude Montgomery, Miss Gladys Fairbank of Sacramento, Dr. and Mrs. W.G. Downing of Suisun and Charles Buck of Lodi.

Vacaville Reporter  
Jan. 9, 1904

## Store hit by burglar

**C**rystal Bros.' store was entered Thursday night and \$25 in cash and a varied selection from the stock was secured by the burglar.

Entrance was effected through the skylight, care being taken to paste heavy paper over the glass so that no noise would be made in removing one of the panes.

On gaining an entrance the midnight visitor proceeded to make his selections from the large stock before him, and the members of the firm cannot definitely fix the amount of their loss. It is apparent, however, the burglar had an eye for cutlery,

for he took about all the sample knives and razors on exhibition in a case. The cash register yielded \$25, but the marauder did not touch the safe.

He also fitted himself out with a suit of clothes, and like a good husband did not forget his wife, for he selected several silk waist patterns and some ready made waists. He departed with his plunder by the back door.

Nothing was known of the robbery until the store was opened up Friday morning, and no clue has yet been obtained of the guilty party.

Vacaville Reporter  
Oct. 28, 1905

## A PART OF HISTORY

### An Old Fashioned Way of Life

See us for all your hunting needs

Buy, Sell, Trade, Consignments & Appraisals

### GUNS & GEAR



860 Alamo Drive (In Alamo Plaza)  
(707) 451-1199

Hours: Tues., 12-7, Wed.-Fri., 10-6, Sat., 9-5

### STYLISH WOMEN'S FASHIONS

We offer personal, courteous service with a smile and prices that will put a smile on your face.

A very stylish jacket made of all wool trimmed with fancy pearl buttons, jacket is lined with good quality satin and guaranteed for two seasons.

Early 1900's - Very fashionable...black only \$6<sup>95</sup>

### UPTOWN FASHIONS

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Tues. - Fri., 10-6 • Sat., 10-5

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Pre-Need Services • Cremation Services  
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### Vaca Valley Mercantile

Bringing You Quality Products  
From Around The World

Coffees & Teas

Exotic Food Products

Fine Chocolates

Unique Gifts

Gift Baskets



354 Merchant St. 446-6333



## BIRTHS

Adlai E. Stevenson, politician, 2/5/00  
 Spencer Tracy, actor, 4/5/00  
 Emile Pyle, war correspondent, 8/3/00  
 Helen Hayes, actress, 10/10/00  
 Margaret Mitchell, author, 11/8/00  
 Aaron Copland, composer, 11/14/00  
 Clark Gable, actor, 2/1/01  
 Louis Kahn, architect, 2/20/01  
 Linus Pauling, chemist, 2/28/01  
 Gary Cooper, actor, 5/7/01  
 Louis Armstrong, musician, 8/4/01  
 Enrico Fermi, physicist, 9/29/01  
 George Gallup, pollster, 11/18/01  
 Walt Disney, animator, 12/5/01  
 Langston Hughes, writer, 2/1/02  
 Charles Lindbergh, aviator, 2/4/02  
 John Steinbeck, novelist, 2/27/02  
 Thomas E. Dewey, politician, 3/24/02  
 Guy Lombardo, band leader, 6/19/02  
 Richard Rodgers, composer, 6/28/02  
 Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., diplomat, 7/5/02  
 Ogden Nash, poet, 8/19/02  
 Ed Sullivan, television host, 10/13/02  
 Edgar Bergen, ventriloquist, 2/16/03  
 Ansel Adams, photographer, 2/20/03  
 Charles Goren, bridge expert, 3/4/03  
 Elliot Ness, federal agent, 4/19/03  
 Benjamin Spock, pediatrician, 5/2/03



Bob Hope, comedian, 5/29/03  
 Lou Gehrig, baseball great, 6/19/03  
 John Dillinger, outlaw, 6/22/03  
 Erskine Caldwell, author, 12/17/03  
 Cary Grant, actor, 1/18/04  
 George Kennan, diplomat, 2/16/04  
 William L. Shirer, historian, 2/23/04  
 James T. Farrell, author, 2/27/04  
 J. Robert Oppenheimer, atomic physicist, 4/22/04  
 Willem de Kooning, painter, 4/24/04  
 James Beard, cooking authority, 5/5/04  
 Salvador Dali, artist, 5/11/04  
 Louis Leakey, paleontologist, 8/7/04  
 Vladimir Horowitz, pianist, 10/1/04  
 Alger Hiss, accused spy, 11/11/04

## PASSAGES

## Queen Victoria

Queen Victoria, who has been on the British throne since 1837, dies Jan. 22 at Cowes on the Isle of Wight at age 82. At her death, the British Empire is at its height, with outposts on five continents and an enormous navy to protect its trade routes. Most of her subjects around the world have known no other monarch. Victoria is succeeded by her 59-year-old son, Albert Edward, the Prince of Wales, who ushers in the nine-year Edwardian period as Edward VII.

## BOOKS

## London, Wiggins emerge

Two great American authors make their first impressions on the reading public in 1903. Jack London's "The Call of the Wild" is a huge success, second only to Kate Douglas Wiggin's "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm" in annual sales.

## MUSIC

## Ragtime's all the rage

Scott Joplin, born to freed slaves in 1868 in Bowie County near Texarkana, Texas, is riding a wave of popularity as the "King of Ragtime." The ragtime genre, with its syncopated rhythm, was already established when Joplin's "Original Rags" was published in early 1899. But "Maple Leaf Rag," also published in 1899, becomes so successful that it captures the ear of the American public in the first years of the new century.



## ART

## Klee, Picasso gain fame

Two of the world's greatest 20th-century painters, each a titan in the development of modern art, come to the fore in 1903 with characteristic major works. Swiss master Paul Klee's "Two Men Meet, Each Supposing the Other to Be of Higher Rank" is a provocative etching. Controversial Spanish artist Pablo Picasso's "La Vie (The Life)" is representative of his later-to-be-celebrated "blue period."

## 1900-1904

## MILLENNIUM NOTEBOOK

## Does the century begin in 1900 or 1901?

Then, as now, there was considerable debate about when the old century should end and the new one begin. The first century obviously ended with the end of the year 100, newspapers patiently explained. So, the 19th century must end on Dec. 31, 1900, rather than Dec. 31, 1899. "No new century began yesterday. Avoid all delusions on that head," pontificated the editor of the New York Tribune, "but those who had to date anything found that there was a queer sensation in writing '1900' and they felt that something momentous had happened to the calendar." New Year's 1900 was the milestone to observe, everyone seemed to agree, so why put off the big celebration for a whole year?

## 1900

Jan. 1: The United States enters the 20th century with a sense of euphoria and satisfaction. Wall Street is said to be undergoing a "prosperity panic," and banker James T. Woodard declares that America is "the envy of the world." In Washington, 2,000 stand in line to shake hands with President William McKinley (pictured) and first lady Ida McKinley at a White House reception. McKinley, a Republican from Ohio, beat William Jennings Bryan in the 1896 election to become the 25th U.S. president.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Jan. 20: Rep. George H. White of North Carolina, the last African-American elected during the Reconstruction era, introduces in Congress a bill to make lynching a federal crime; the bill never gets out of committee. There are 115 recorded lynchings in 1900.

Jan. 26: Theodore Roosevelt, who led the famed Rough Riders during the recent Spanish-American War, tells friend Henry Sprague: "Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far."

Jan. 29: The American League is formed in Chicago by Byron Bancroft Johnson, its first president. Although the bid for recognition as a major league is rejected by the powerful National League, the American League — also known as the "junior circuit" — achieves major-league status the next year.

Oct. 5: The National League ends its final season as baseball's only major league. The Brooklyn team earns the championship with a three-game margin over Pittsburgh. Outfielder Honus Wagner hits .381 to win his first of eight batting titles.

Nov. 6: McKinley again defeats William Jennings Bryan, a Nebraskan on the Democratic and Populist tickets, to win a second term as president. Elected as vice president is the Republican governor of New York, Theodore Roosevelt.

## 1901

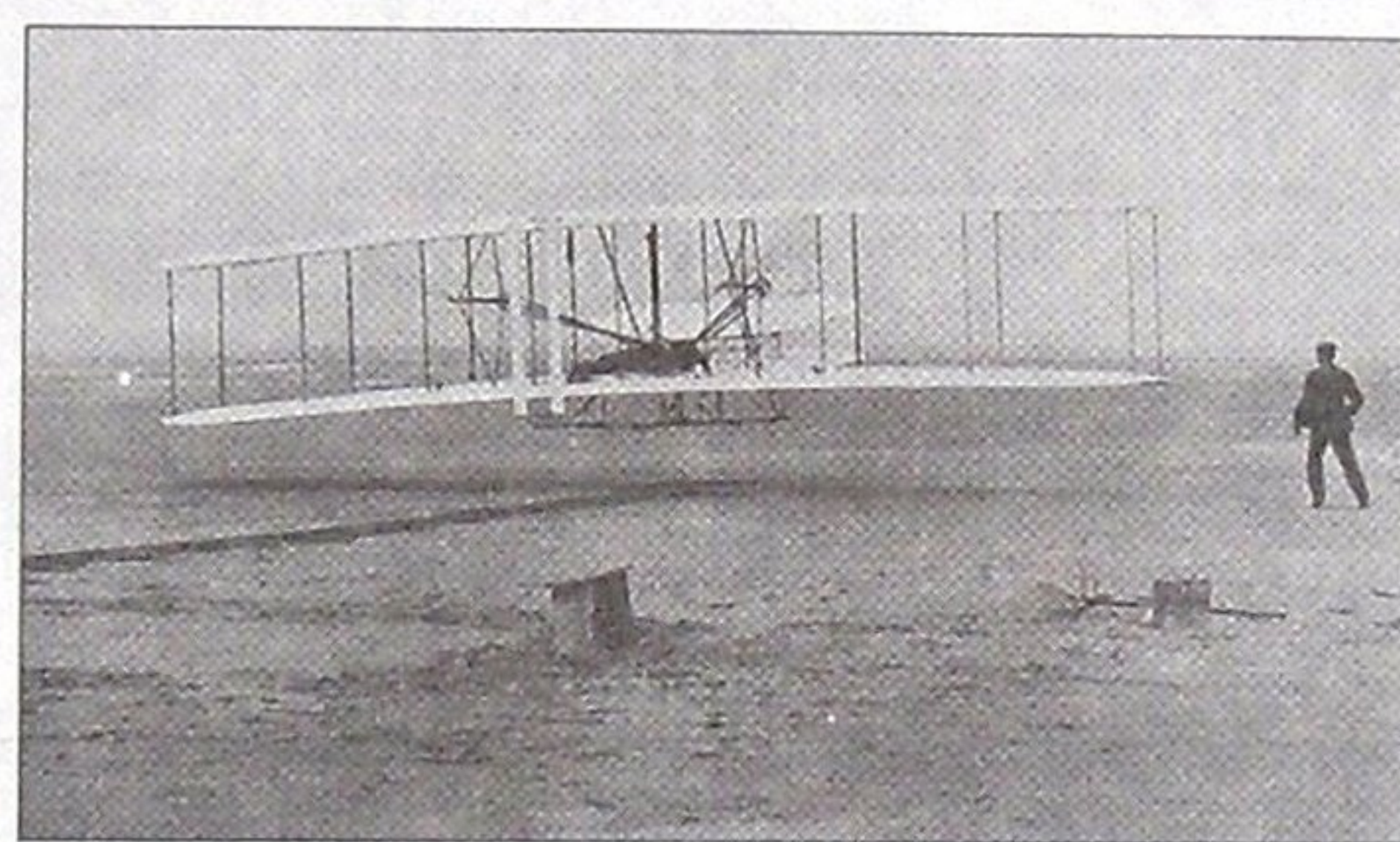
Feb. 25: J. P. Morgan and other investors buy out the industrial empire of Andrew Carnegie. They combine his business with some of theirs to create U.S. Steel Corp. The new company, capitalized at more than \$1.4 billion, produces 7.7 million tons of finished steel per year. This is the largest business deal to date in U.S. history.

## The Teddy Bear is born

On Nov. 10, 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt is on a hunting excursion in Mississippi while trying to settle a boundary dispute between that state and Louisiana. Well aware of the president's love of exotic game, his staff captures a Louisiana black bear for Roosevelt to shoot. Instead of killing the bear, the president sets it free. Editorial cartoonist Clifford Berryman learns of the incident and draws a cartoon for The Washington Post of Nov. 18 called "Drawing the Line in Mississippi." It shows Roosevelt refusing to shoot the bear. Morris Michtom, a candy store proprietor in Brooklyn, N.Y., sees the cartoon and figures there's money to be made. He and his wife make a stuffed plush toy with movable arms, legs and head and — with the president's permission — christen it the "teddy bear." The toy bear becomes an icon of the time and a perennial favorite of children throughout the century.



NATIONAL PRESS CLUB



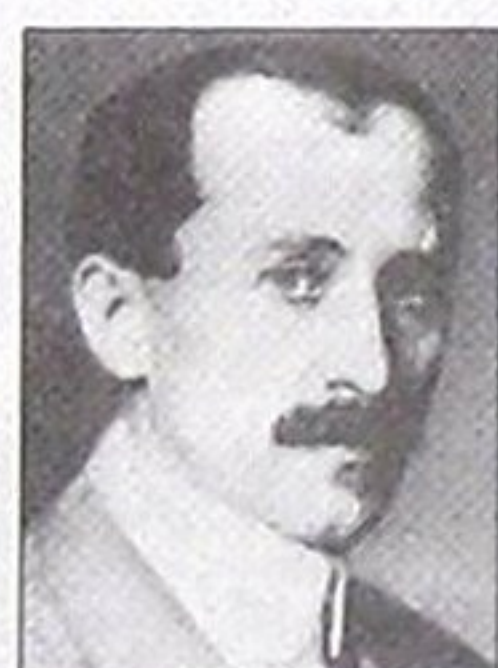
NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM (ABOVE); FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM FILE (BELOW)

## It's a bird, it's a plane ...!

"The problem of aerial navigation without the use of a balloon has been solved at last."

— Norfolk Virginian-Pilot

On a blustery Dec. 17, 1903, near Kill Devil Hill at Kitty Hawk, N.C., Orville and Wilbur Wright astounded onlookers by demonstrating manned flight in a heavier-than-air mechanically propelled airplane. The Wright brothers, bicycle mechanics from Dayton, Ohio, previously have experimented with their self-made kite-like contraption, powered by a 12-horsepower motorcycle engine, but no one was



Orville Wright

around to watch. This occasion attracts a curious group that includes several speculative industrialists and some enterprising photogra-

phers. "Not many," the Wrights recall later, "were willing to face the rigors of a cold December wind in order to see, as they no doubt thought, another flying machine not fly." On-



Wilbur Wright

lookers are only mildly impressed when Orville Wright in his initial flight covers 120 feet in 12 airborne seconds. But the brothers take turns in the air. The fourth flight, manned by Wilbur Wright, is officially recorded as 59 seconds, covering a distance of 852 feet. The only newspaper in America to give the flight serious coverage is the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, which publishes an account the morning after the successful flight. Nevertheless, the Kitty Hawk flights are a birth cry for an enterprise that will change the world.

Aug. 1: Field hockey is introduced in the United States by Constance M.K. Applebee, representing the British College of Physical Education.

Sept. 6: President McKinley is shot twice in the abdomen at point-blank range by anarchist Leon Czolgosz as the president stands in a receiving line at the Pan-American exposition in Buffalo, N.Y. For a few days, McKinley seems to recover, but he dies on Sept. 14 of gangrene, whispering the words of his favorite

hymn, "Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee." Vice President Theodore Roosevelt becomes president at age 42.

Dec. 12: Guglielmo Marconi receives the first trans-Atlantic wireless message as he sits in a hut on the cliffs at St. John's, Newfoundland. An English telegrapher 1,700 miles away at Poldhu, Cornwall, taps out the letter "S," and Marconi picks it up on a crude receiver with a kite antenna. "I now felt for the first time absolutely certain that the day would come," Marconi writes at the time, "when mankind would be able to send messages without wires not only across the Atlantic but between the farthest ends of the earth."



Dec. 30: All the seats are filled and other patrons are standing in Chicago's Iroquois Theater to watch a vaudeville bill headlined by comedian Eddie Foy and his "seven little Foyes." A fire ignites in the outer lobby and almost instantly penetrates the auditorium, trapping almost 1,000 patrons. The reported death toll ranges from 588 to 602.

## 1902

Feb. 22: Maj. Walter Reed and Dr. James Carroll of the U.S. Army Yellow Fever Commission in Cuba reveal that the dreaded disease endemic to the tropics is carried by a species of mosquito.

March 4: Every driver's savior, the American Automobile Association, or Triple A, is formed in Chicago for the "development and introduction of the automobile."

March 18: Italian tenor Enrico Caruso makes his first phonograph recordings in a hotel room in Milan. He records 10 songs for \$500.

April 29: The Senate votes to extend the Chinese Exclusion Act for the second time. The act bars Chinese immigration to the United States, protecting American workers from the threat of cheap Asian labor.

May 20: Cuba gains independence from Spain, and U.S. troops end the occupation that followed the Spanish-American War of 1898. Tomas Estrada Palma is elected first president of the independent Republic of Cuba.

Enrico Caruso  
GULLEVER PICTURES

June 15: The Twentieth Century Limited goes into service to begin a 65-year career on the rail route between New York and Chicago.

## 1903

April 24: The New York Stock Exchange's new building at Broad and Wall streets is dedicated amid a blizzard of ticker tape. In a dedication speech, financier J.P. Morgan says: "The magnificence of our new home is only in keeping with the magnitude of our business."

May 2: The Kentucky Derby is won by an ebony colt named Judge Himes, a decided longshot. But contrary to a claim in many later reference works, this does not establish "dark horse" as a term for a surprise winner. The first dark horse was Franklin Pierce, nominated for president on the 49th ballot at the Democrats' 1852 convention.

Nov. 17: At a congress in London, Russia's embattled Social Democratic Labor Party splits into two wings — the moderate Mensheviks ("minority") and the radical Bolsheviks ("majority"). Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, fiery young leader of the Bolsheviks, advocates in his oratory the destruction of capitalism and establishment of an international socialist state.

Dec. 10: The Nobel Prize in physics is shared by three French scientists — Henri Becquerel and a married couple, Pierre and Marie Curie. Becquerel in 1896 had discovered radioactivity, and his work originally inspired the Curies' investigations into radiation, tracing its source to the heart of the atom.

Dec. 30: All the seats are filled and other patrons are standing in Chicago's Iroquois Theater to watch a vaudeville bill headlined by comedian Eddie Foy and his "seven little Foyes." A fire ignites in the outer lobby and almost instantly penetrates the auditorium, trapping almost 1,000 patrons. The reported death toll ranges from 588 to 602.

## 1904

Feb. 8: Japanese naval forces launch a stunning nighttime attack against the Russian fleet off Port Arthur in southern Manchuria. The attack is the start of the biggest war thus far in history — the first in which armored battleships, self-propelled torpedoes, land mines, quick-firing artillery and modern machine guns will be used. Japan follows up its sneak attack with a declaration of war.

March 27: Labor organizer Mary Harris "Mother" Jones is ordered out of Colorado by state authorities, who accuse her of stirring up striking coal miners.

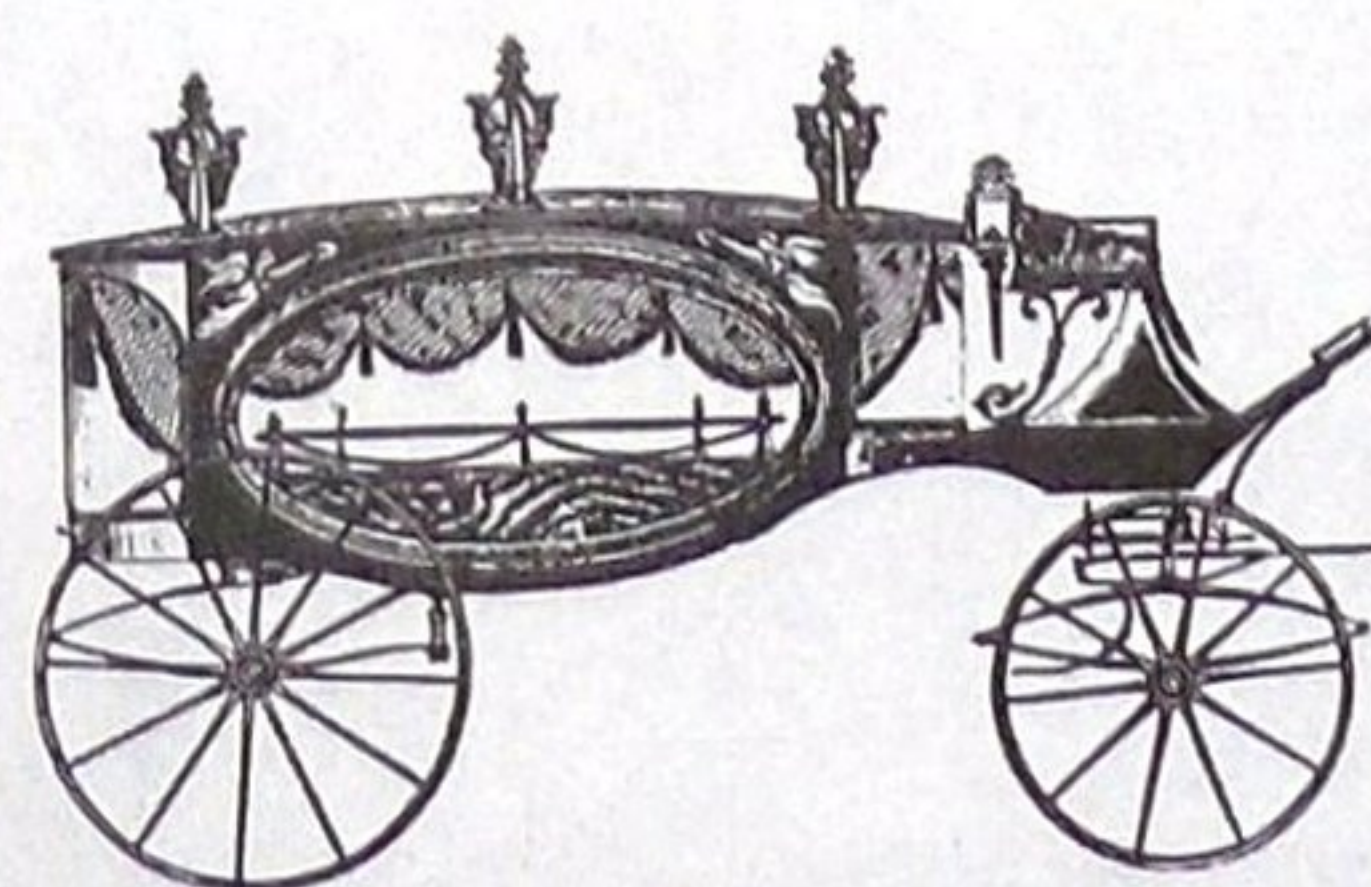
May 5: Denton True "Cy-clone" Young, better known as Cy Young, pitches the first perfect game in major-league baseball, for the Boston Pilgrims. The perfect game, against the Philadelphia Athletics, comes during a string of 44 consecutive scoreless innings, 23 of which were hitless as well.

Nov. 15: King C. Gillette is granted a patent for a razor with a disposable blade. Razor and blade sales skyrocket.

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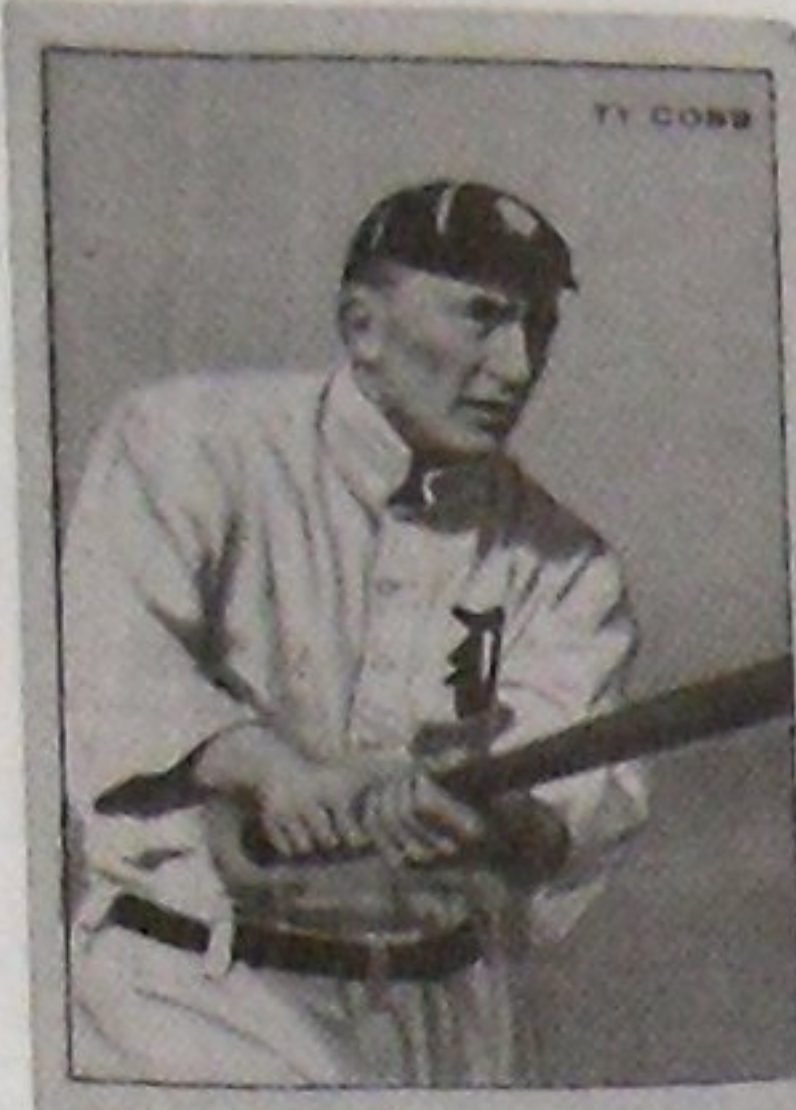


## 1905

■ **Feb. 23:** At 37, Paul P. Harris could look back on an itinerant past as a cowboy, actor, reporter, merchant, coal dealer and mining engineer. Now, as a civic-minded lawyer in bustling Chicago, he meets with three friends downtown to form a community service organization. They agree to meet in rotation at one another's offices, spawning the group's name — the Rotary Club.

■ **March 17:** Franklin Delano Roosevelt is married to Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, a fifth cousin and niece of President Theodore Roosevelt, in New York City.

■ **May 5:** The Chicago Defender, the nation's first influential black newspaper, begins publication.



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■ **Aug. 30:** Ty Cobb makes his major league debut with the Detroit Tigers. The "Georgia Peach" will play 22 seasons for the Tigers, two for the Philadelphia Athletics and record .366 lifetime batting average, winning the batting title 12 times.

■ **Sept. 5:** A peace accord signed at Portsmouth, N.H., officially ends the Russo-Japanese War, the first major conflict of the 20th century, and establishes Japan as an industrialized military power. The war erupted in 1904 as a power struggle for control of northeast Asia.

■ **Nov. 26:** Special synagogue services are held throughout the country to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the settlement of Jews in America in 1654 at New Amsterdam (now New York) and their role in the discovery of the New World. Speakers note that two Jewish merchants helped Queen Isabella of Spain to pay for Columbus' voyage in 1492, and that Columbus' expedition included Louis de Torres, a Jewish interpreter.

## 1906

■ **March 7:** Finland becomes the first country to give women the vote, decreeing universal suffrage for citizens over 24.

■ **April 18:** At 5:13 a.m., San Franciscans are jolted from their beds by a violent trembling of the earth. Afterward come the fires, fed by broken gas mains. Hapless survivors try to cook on damaged stoves, which causes more explosions and fires. Soon, it seems, everyone left in the city is either being the flames and destruction, seeking missing relatives, or helping with relief efforts.

The fires rage for three days, destroying two-thirds of the city of about 400,000. Estimates at the time put the death toll in the hundreds, but modern researchers estimate that as many as 3,000 may have died in the worst quake ever to hit an American city. Hundreds of thousands more are homeless, and the City by the Bay is stripped of its Gold Rush-era finery. In all, 28,000 buildings are destroyed. Property damage is put at \$400 million.



■ **March 31:** President Theodore Roosevelt summons to the White House representatives of Harvard, Princeton and Yale to spur changes in college football rules.

## 1905-1909

## MILLENNIUM NOTEBOOK

One of the most brutal seasons of college football was in 1905, which featured the "flying wedge" offense. Eighteen players died and 154 were seriously injured, largely because almost no protective gear was worn in those days. There were calls to reform the rules or abolish the sport.

At a subsequent meeting in New York, representatives of 62 schools form the Intercollegiate Athletic Association of the United States. The federation will become the National Collegiate Athletic Association in 1910.



■ **Summer:** Until the summer of 1906, fatty sausages served on long buns sliced lengthwise had a variety of names: frankfurters, franks, red hots, dachshund sausages, wieners and wienies. But it is a Hearst sports cartoonist named Thomas Aloysius "Dad" Dorgan who is generally credited with giving the quintessential American ballpark snack the name we use today: hot dog. There are several versions of the story, but here is the most credible: In his cartoons, Dorgan already is depicting German figures as talking dachshunds. Playing off a widely held belief that the sausages sold at Coney Island and the Polo Grounds contain dog meat, Dorgan sketches a cartoon showing a vendor peddling a dachshund, slathered in mustard, in a bun. The caption reads: "Get your hot dogs."

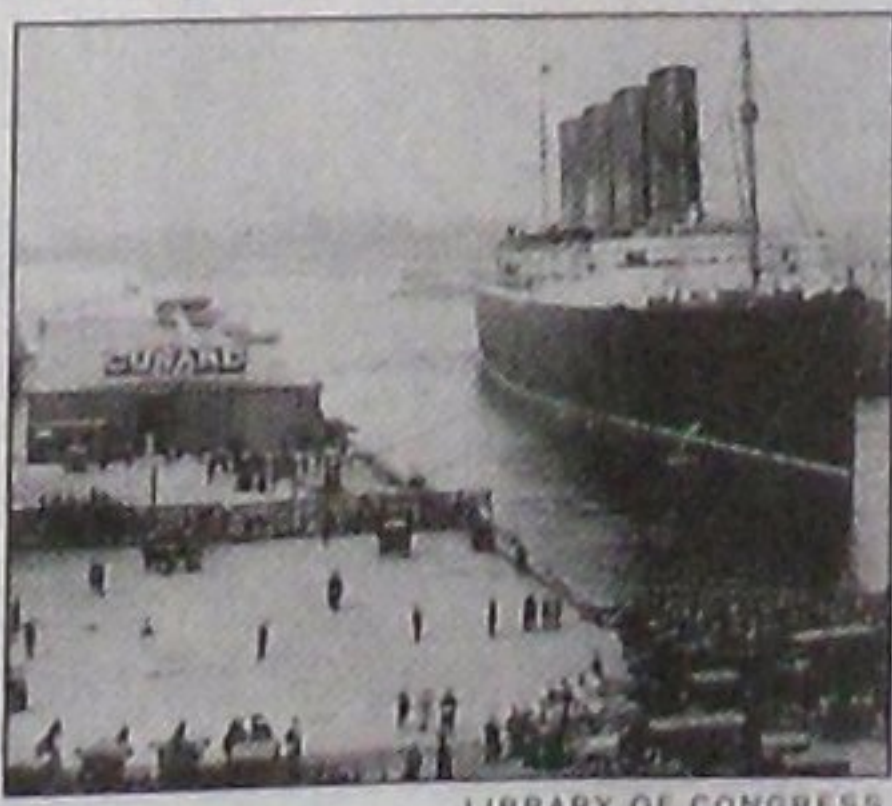
■ **Dec. 24:** The first Christmas Eve broadcast has no sponsor or star — and not much of an audience. Wireless operators on ships off the New England coast are puzzled to hear a man's voice coming through the equipment normally used to send and receive Morse code; no one has ever heard a voice or music broadcast before. The man reads the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke, then plays a violin solo and a recording of Handel's Largo. He is no performer; he is engineer Reginald Fessenden, who in 1901 patented a way of transmitting radio waves to carry natural sounds rather than chirps of code. Fessenden's brief broadcast from a remote coastal station at Brant Rock, Mass., is a harbinger of a global communications revolution.

## 1907

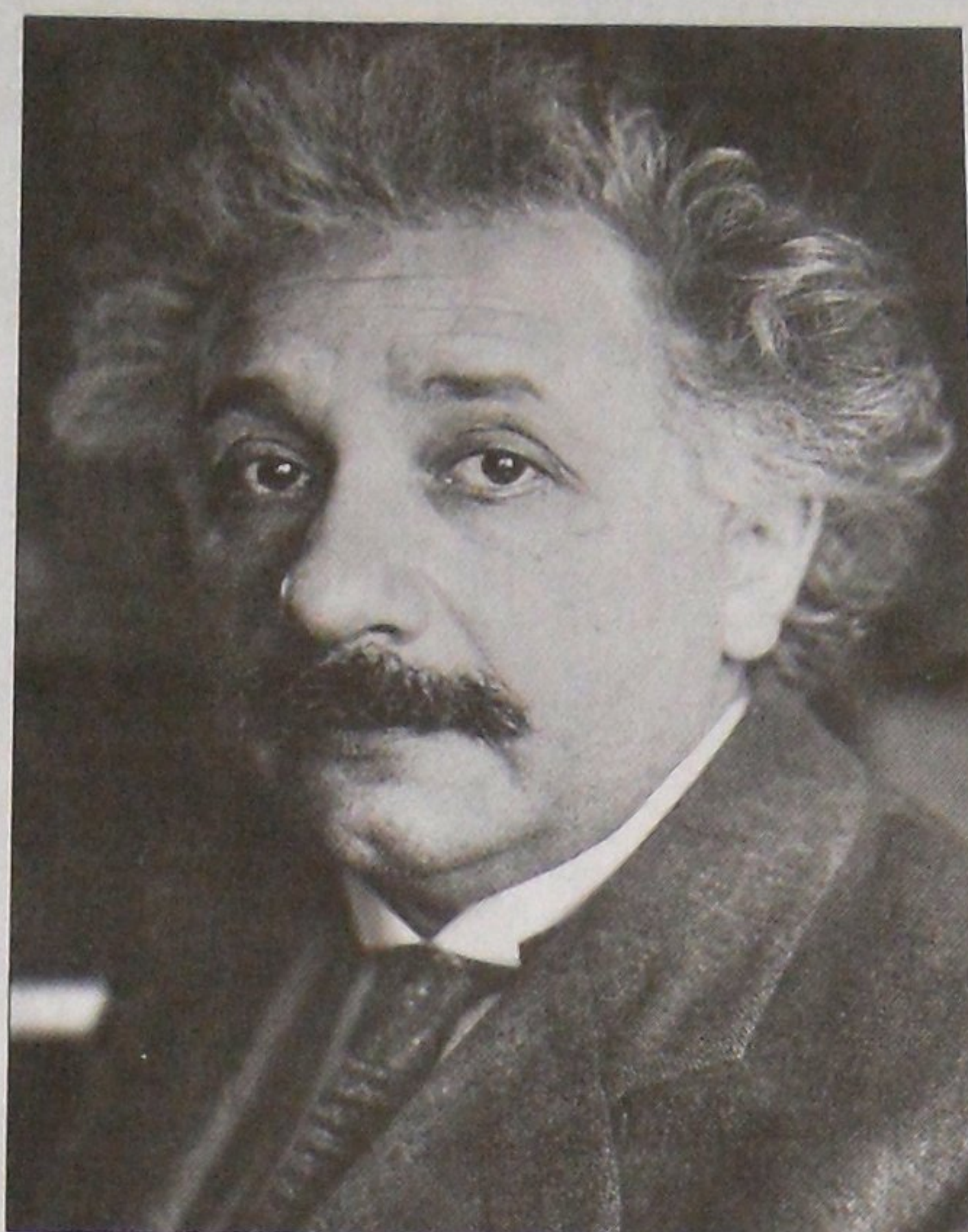
■ **Feb. 24:** The New York Times publishes a list of the world's richest people. Topping it is John D. Rockefeller, whose worth is estimated at \$300 million.

■ **July 29:** Sir Robert Baden-Powell, a celebrated British general, recruits 22 boys for a field test of his essay "Boy Scouts — A Suggestion." The aim of the two-week excursion into the woods of Brownsea Island off England's coast is to instill a sense of community service, chivalry and physical fitness "to help in making the rising generation, of whatever class or creed, into good citizens at home or in the colonies." Baden-Powell later will meet with Chicago publisher William D. Boyce, who will incorporate the Boy Scouts of America in 1910.

■ **Sept. 13:** The Cunard liner SS Lusitania arrives in New York on its maiden voyage, setting a record of five days, 54 minutes, for the trans-Atlantic crossing from Queenstown, Ireland. The 31,500-ton Lusitania is 790 feet long,



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NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## Albert Einstein explains energy

The world becomes infinitely more complicated in 1905 when an obscure 26-year-old patent clerk in Bern, Switzerland, publishes his musings in the German physics journal Annalen der Physik. The clerk, Albert Einstein, sets out in the article "a simple and consistent theory of the electrodynamics of moving bodies." In what becomes known as "the special theory of relativity," Einstein suggests that energy and mass are not separate and distinct, as scientists had long assumed, but that they interact with each other, and that energy has mass. He intro-

duces history's most famous equation,  $E=mc^2$  (energy equals mass times the speed of light squared). Einstein suggests that energy is contained in matter, even such tiny particles as the atom, and that light or radio waves traveling through space will be bent off their path by a massive body such as the sun, slowing the waves for a fraction of a second. His conjectures link space, time, matter and energy in ways never before imagined, and they radically alter man's view of the universe. "I have no special gift," Einstein says later. "I am only passionately curious."

■ **Oct. 21:** The five Ringling brothers — Alf, Al, Charles, Otto and John — from Baraboo, Wis., buy out their main competitor, the Barnum & Bailey circus, for \$410,000. The deal, sealed in London, gives the Ringlings a virtual monopoly on the circus business in the United States.

■ **Nov. 16:** Oklahoma becomes the 46th state.

■ **Dec. 10:** Rudyard Kipling, author of "The Jungle Book," is awarded the Nobel Prize for literature.

## 1908

■ **March 29:** Mutt and Jeff, in William Randolph Hearst's San Francisco Examiner, is the first comic strip to appear daily with the same cartoon figures. Cartoonist Harry Conway "Bud" Fisher, then 23, will continue the strip until his death in 1954.

■ **May 10:** The first Mother's Day is observed in Philadelphia and in Grafton, W.Va., to honor the memory of Anna Reese Jarvis and American mothers living and dead. The observance is the idea of Anna M. Jarvis, daughter of Anna Reese Jarvis.

By 1911, all states will hold Mother's Day observances. On May 9, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson will proclaim Mother's Day a national observance.

■ **May 22:** Wilbur and Orville Wright register their flying machine at the U.S. Patent Office.

■ **June 30:** At 7:17 a.m., a mysterious fireball hurtles across the sky and explodes in the atmosphere about four miles above a remote area of Siberia called Tunguska. The explosion, with a power later estimated at between 10 and 20 megatons of TNT, flattens and burns 850 square miles of forest and kills hundreds of reindeer. The only known human casualty is a reindeer herder at a camp about 20 miles from ground zero.

Russian scientists will not venture into the area until 1927 to measure and map the site and gather eyewitness accounts. They find a scene of utter devastation, but no crater or meteor fragments. Researchers conclude that the blast was caused by a rocky meteor, perhaps 200 feet in diam-

eter, striking the atmosphere at an angle of about 45 degrees. They believe that it disintegrated into millions of tiny fragments no larger than fine gravel.

■ **Sept. 16:** General Motors Co. is founded by William C. Durant, who brings other carmakers together into a holding company. Durant's bankers tell him that Henry Ford's company is not worth the \$8 million that Ford demands, so Ford does not join.

■ **Sept. 17:** Lt. Thomas Selfridge of the Army Signal Corps is fatally injured in the crash of an airplane piloted by Orville Wright at Fort Myer, Va. Selfridge, 26, is the first person to die as a result of a crash since the Wright brothers opened the era of heavier-than-air flight in 1903. Wright was conducting tests for the War Department.

■ **Oct. 1:** The Model T rolls off Henry Ford's Detroit assembly line and instantly becomes "a motorcar for the multitudes."

The black, boxlike car initially costs \$850.50, but the price will drop during the 19 years the Model T is on the market: \$600 in 1912, \$290 in 1924. By 1927, the last year of Model T production, 15 million will be on the road.

The car is dubbed the Tin Lizzie because "Lizzie" is an all-



FORD

purpose name for a domestic servant and because the Model T has a flimsy, tinny look. The Model T is lightweight, simple to operate and relatively powerful.

The Model T's top speed is only 40 mph, but the car has good acceleration, and its high clearance is perfect for the rutted, unpaved roads of the time. Farmers use the Model T as a substitute for draft horses to haul produce. Within a few years, millions of Americans are rattling around the countryside, transforming a horse-and-buggy land of isolated hamlets into a mobile, modern nation.

■ **Nov. 3:** William Howard Taft defeats William Jennings Bryan and is elected 27th president of the United States.

■ **Dec. 26:** Jack Johnson of Galveston, Texas, becomes the first Negro to win the world heavyweight boxing championship when he scores a technical knockout over Tommy Burns in Sydney, Australia.

## 1909

■ **March 4:** As outgoing President Theodore Roosevelt looks on, William Howard Taft is sworn in as president during a howling blizzard; because of the weather, the ceremony takes place in the Senate chamber.

■ **April 6:** The third time proves to be the charm for explorer Robert E. Peary. Having failed twice to be the first man to reach the North Pole, Peary sets out from the United States in July 1908, winters in Greenland and dashes to the Pole on March 1, 1909. His African-American assistant, Matthew Henson, plants the American flag at 90 degrees north latitude on April 6.

■ **July 16:** The shah of Iran is deposed and is succeeded by his 12-year-old son.

■ **Aug. 9:** Mark Twain's doctor advises the famous author, 73, to cut down to four cigars a day because of his "tobacco heart."

SOURCES: THE PEOPLE'S CHRONOLOGY; A YEAR-BY-YEAR RECORD OF HUMAN EVENTS FROM PREHISTORY TO THE PRESENT; GREAT EVENTS OF THE 20TH CENTURY; CHRONICLE OF AMERICA; CHRONICLE OF THE 20TH CENTURY; THE ANNALS OF AMERICA; WHAT HAPPENED WHEN; THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WORLD FACTS & DATES; COMPILED BY FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF

## BIRTHS

Christian Dior, fashion designer, 1/21/05  
Henry Fonda, actor, 5/16/05  
Jean-Paul Sartre, writer, 6/21/05  
Greta Garbo, actress, 11/18/05  
Lou Costello, comedian, 3/6/06  
Samuel Beckett, playwright, 4/13/06  
Josephine Baker, dancer, 6/3/06  
Clifford Odets, playwright, 7/18/06  
John Huston, movie director, 8/5/06  
James Michener, novelist, 2/3/07  
W.H. Auden, poet, 2/25/07



Katharine Hepburn, actress, 4/21/07  
John Wayne, actor, 5/26/07  
Paul Mellon, philanthropist, 6/11/07  
Barbara Stanwyck, actress, 7/16/07

Warren Burger, chief justice, 11/17/07  
Gene Autry, cowboy singer, 11/29/07  
Simone de Beauvoir, writer, 1/9/08  
Bette Davis, actress, 4/5/08  
James Stewart, actor, 5/20/08  
Ian Fleming, writer, 5/28/08  
Thurgood Marshall, justice, 7/2/08  
Nelson Rockefeller, politician, 7/8/08  
Henri Cartier-Bresson, photographer, 8/22/08  
Lyndon B. Johnson, president, 8/27/08  
Richard Wright, author, 11/4/08  
Barry Goldwater, politician, 1/1/09  
Dean Rusk, secretary of state, 2/9/09  
Ethel Merman, singer-actress, 1/16/09  
Wallace Stegner, author, 2/18/09  
Lionel Hampton, vibraphonist, 4/12/09  
Benny Goodman, band leader, 5/30/09  
Errol Flynn, actor, 6/20/09

## PASSAGES

## Geronimo

Apache chief Geronimo, who led raids against white settlers off and on from 1858 until his last surrender in 1886, dies of pneumonia at Fort Sill, Okla., on Feb. 17, 1909. In his later years, Geronimo became a symbol of the noble savage and an international celebrity, attending the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904 and the inauguration of President Theodore Roosevelt in 1905. Just before his death, Geronimo remarked, "Now there are very few of us left."

## BREAKTHROUGHS

## Carrier's cooling device

Willis Haviland Carrier, a 26-year-old engineer only a year out of Cornell University, is wrestling with a problem in 1902: how to control the heat and humidity in a Brooklyn, N.Y., printing plant so that the colored inks will print crisply and not blur on the page. A solution comes to Carrier on a cold, foggy night as he waits on a Pittsburgh train platform. He realizes that he can create an artificial fog by spraying a fine mist of water into a box, saturating the air inside. By adjusting the water's temperature, he can control the temperature of the air. He calls his cooling device an "apparatus for treating air" and patents it in 1906.



CARRIER

## CATALYSTS

## A light in a dark time

Forty-five years after emancipation, blacks are still relegated to second-class citizenship. A catalyst for change begins to take shape Feb. 12, 1909. A group of concerned blacks and white reformers call for a meeting in New York in May and June. At the meeting, attended by about 300 activists, the most stirring voice from the podium is that of W.E.B. Du Bois (pictured below). Harvard-educated, Du Bois eloquently repudiates the policy of acquiescence advocated by educator Booker T. Washington.

At the end of the meeting, the National Negro Committee is formed. A year later, the group adopts a new name, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.



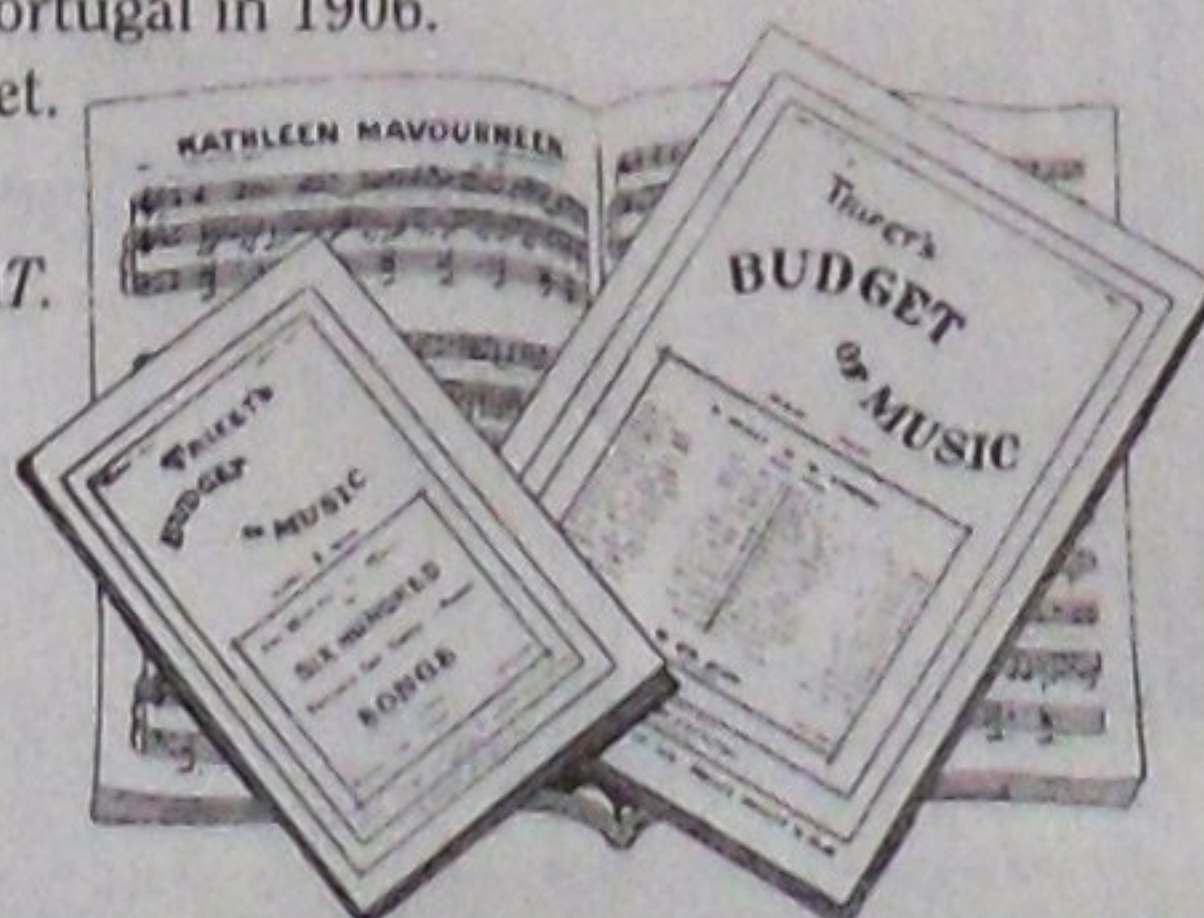
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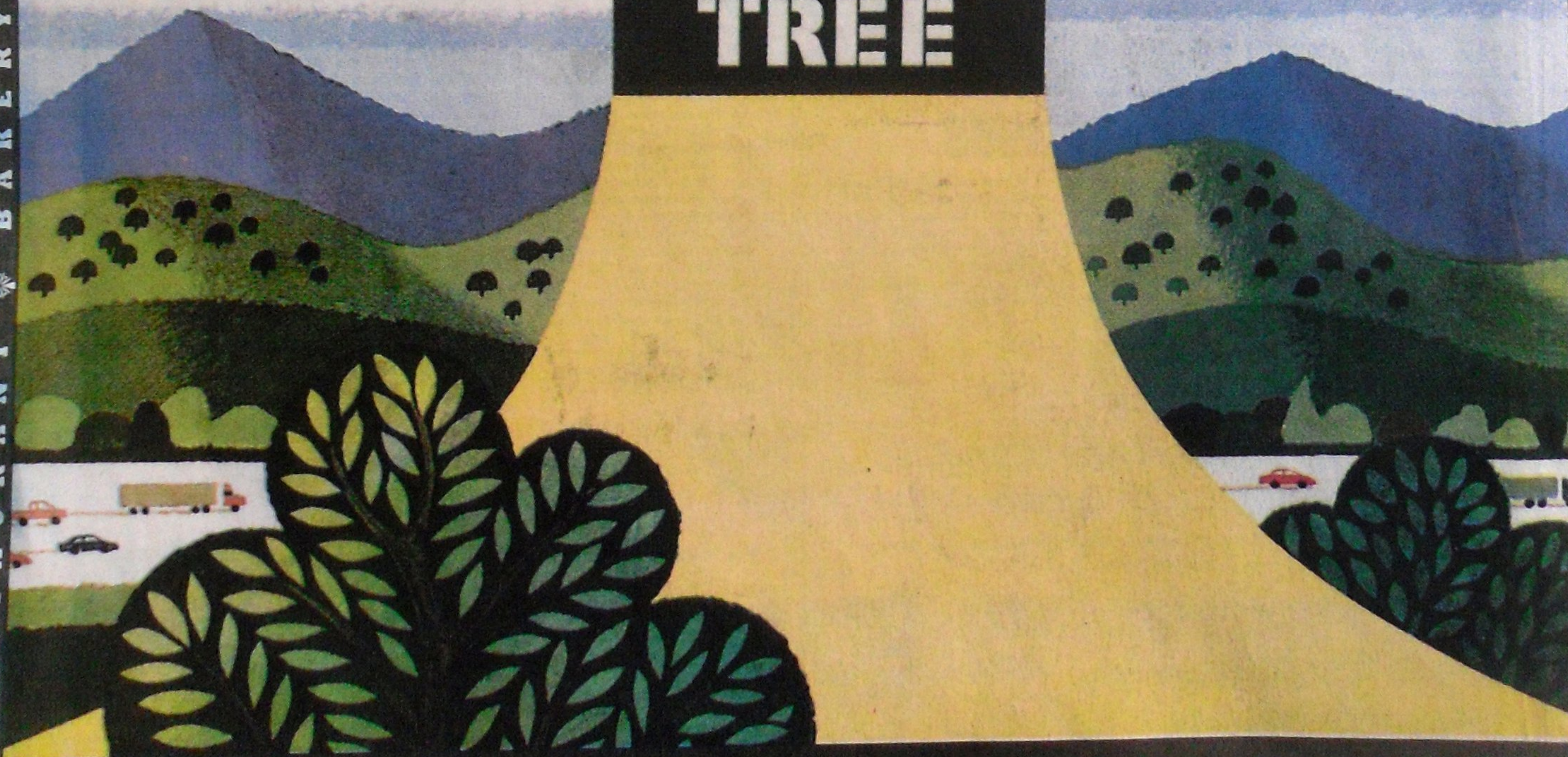


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